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Blue Jay

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FLIGHT PATTERN

Photo by Cy Hampson

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BLUE JAY CHATTER

EDUCATION FOR PROTECTION

Now that hawks, owls and eagles are legally protected by newly-enacted legislation the complete text is presented on p.p. 127) it might be assumed that we need merely wait a few seasons to see an increase in the numbers of these birds. This could happen if the public were aware of the new laws. Unfortunately, no one outside of those concerned with the introduction of these laws seems to have heard of them. Members of the Saskatchewan Falconry Association have disappointedly reported having seen as many dead hawks as ever fastened like ill omens to fences throughout the country. Obviously there is an immediate need for publicity beyond what we have already undertaken. Every member of our society can assist in acquainting the public with these laws and with the reasons for their enactment. Our executive is considering further means of publicity but personal efforts by each of us will always be needed and useful. This will have to be a continuous program, but it is just the kind of activity to which our society is dedicated. "Did you know that hawks and owls are now legally protected . . . ?" may not seem like a good opening for an after-dinner conversation, but our experience has taught us that many persons not especially interested in birds are interested in hawks and owls and that the aspect of legal protection for these species elicits even greater respect for them.

TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

This year the annual meeting of the Society will again be held in the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History. We have always appreciated the opportunity to visit the Museum on these occasions and the hospitality extended to our members by the Museum staff. If any of our members have not visited the Museum since the last annual meeting held there three years ago, they will be interested in the developments that have taken place. This will also be an opportunity for our members to meet new members of the Museum staff and to see photo and film material that has been produced in connection with field work done this past season by members of the different departments. Our president, Dr. Bob Nero, has just come back from three months' field study at Uranium City and we are looking forward to a report from him and his co-workers and to seeing some of the kodachrome photos of the country and its birdlife.

Special speaker at the annual meeting will be Al Hochbaum, the well known author and artist, who is director of the Delta Waterfowl Research Station. Al Hochbaum was in Regina recently at the Federal-Provincial Wildlife Convention and we are looking forward to seeing this friendly, unassuming wildlife expert again in October.

Our members always look forward to the October meeting as an occasion for friends with similar interests in natural history to get together. This year we hope that many new friends will join our group. We like to think that some new friends have been gained for the Society this summer through our new bookstall at the Museum where we have been selling natural history materials to interested visitors. On an experimental basis, the Society undertook to operate the counter every afternoon during the holiday months of July and August. Mrs. Elizabeth Cruickshank has been in charge and she has been meeting the public and representing the Society in her inimitably friendly way (p.145). We hope that this pilot project may help to establish a permanent bookshop in the Museum.

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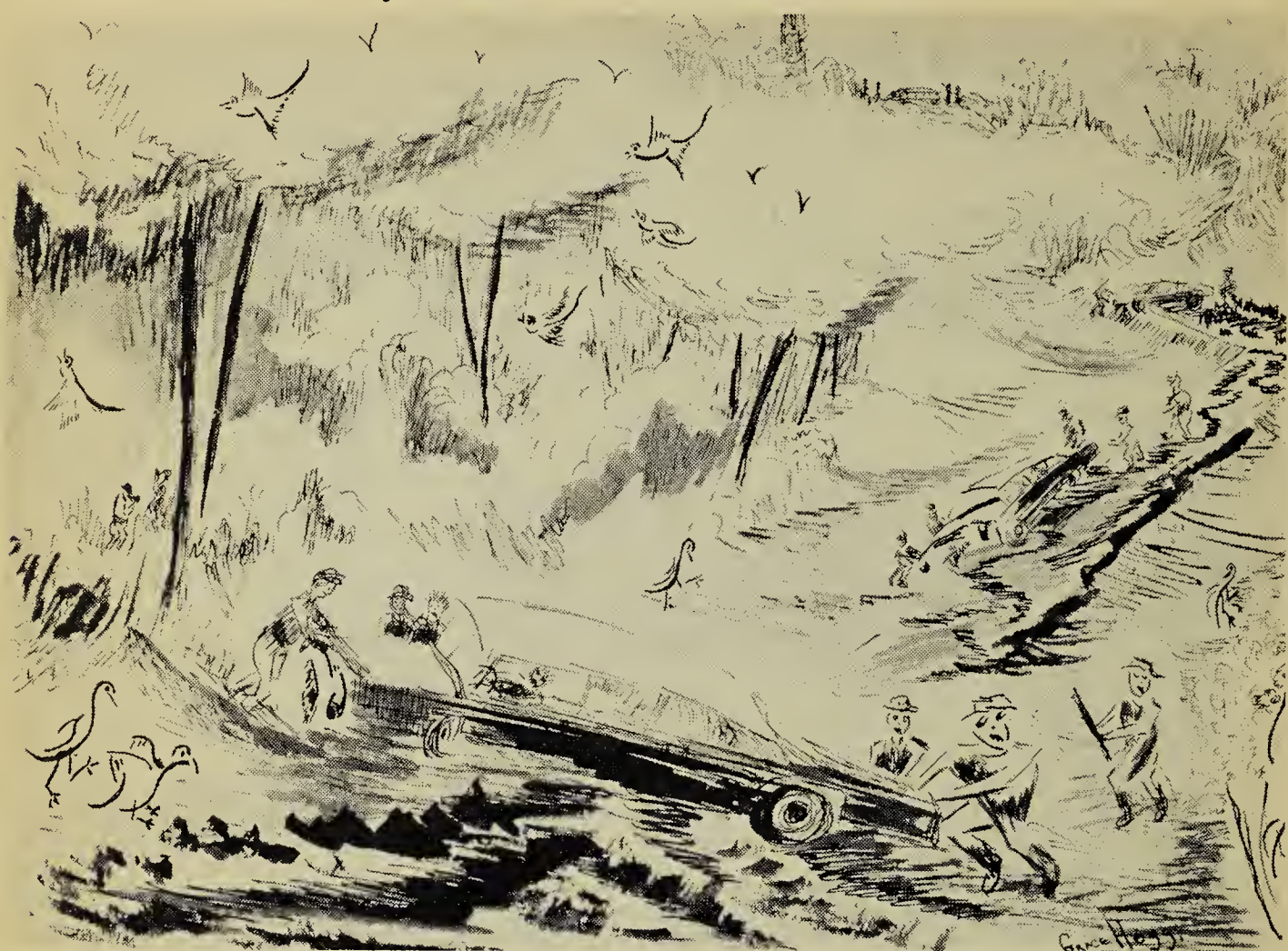
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Regular Membership (including **Blue Jay**), \$2.00; Junior Membership, \$1.00.

Jottings From Greenwater

by Elizabeth Cruickshank, Regina



Sketch by Grace Hogg

Birdwatching Greenwater Style!

The sighting of a water tower set on a high and distant hill proved to be an irresistible challenge to Stuart Houston. In spite of rain-soaked roads, half a dozen cars filled up at sunrise willing to follow the dedicated bird-bander. The blue station wagon, now a flying boat, reached the goal with its skipper. The mired, mud-weighted, shoving, slithering fellow-travellers whose cars did not get through had the satisfaction of learning that a White-breasted Nuthatch and a Junco had been sighted by the intrepid crew. But this was only one episode in a pleasure-packed weekend at Greenwater Provincial Park when the Saskatchewan Natural History Society held its June meet there.

Jack Lane led the remnants of the tower safari to a wood full of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. His uncanny aptitude for nest discovery and song recognition gave members also White-throats and Mourning Warblers. So keen was the delight as they

watched and listened in the frog-filled bog, that black flies biting like demons went un-swatted!

Within the park Bill Brownlee, Lloyd Carmichael, Bernard de Vries, and George Ledingham acted as guides on hikes, pointing out exciting finds of orchids, ferns, grasses, Pileated Woodpeckers or Great Crested Flycatchers.

The evening of our arrival at the park was cool and wet and stacks of wood by the cabins were gratefully scanned. Frank Roy, however, found that the community axe was dull and useless! Lucy Murray gathered dry twigs but Frank Skinner, skilled in campcraft, demonstrated how to light a fire with whittled shavings. That proved a useful trick in the foggy dawn, and later helped us to dry soaked clothing. For the next meet we shall invest in a good pocket knife!

The following day the lake lay like a jewel of blue in the sunshine, and Loons and Red-necked Grebes could

be seen swimming about. In this setting, swimming, boating and fishing were enjoyed to the full.

Michael Rhodes missed nothing in the form of birds, plants, feathers, footprints, frogs and pebbles! Other keen young members—John and Jane Ellis, Karen and Doug Shaw, and the Shadicks—noted everything around them with consuming interest.

The cavalcade to Little Nut Lake led by Anton and Steve Waycheshen gave thrills aplenty, including a Short-eared Owl's nest with seven eggs.

There were also nests of grebes, Soras, loons, phoebes, Least Flycatchers. Most unexpected was one in the chimney of the cabin shared by Connie Pratt and Sylvia Harrison. Here a Golden-eye duck wanted to

be counted among those present! While watching the Least Flycatcher's nest, Hummingbirds and Purple Finches flew past the open windows of the Lanes' car so often that the passengers expected momentarily that they would detour through the car.

Only flaw at the meeting was the lack of time for friends who meet only once a year to visit. There was no time to talk over experiences, trivial in themselves perhaps, but combining to make the meeting seem one of royal happenings and discoveries. These memories make a garland—lovely as the Greenwater orchids—to cherish with the new friendships made there.

To the Brownlee family, to the Park staff and management go grateful thanks.

Notes from the Thelon Game Sanctuary, N.W.T.

by E. Kuyt, Yellowknife, N.W.T.

I am stationed in Yellowknife with the Canadian Wildlife Service and have been in the field from June 16 until the present (June 24) in the Thelon River area collecting data on wolf biology. Here in the Thelon Game Sanctuary in the Keewatin District of the Northwest Territories the country is absolutely beautiful. Although most maps show the area to be north of the tree-line, it really isn't. There are a large number of white spruce here (some of a diameter of 12 inches at the butt, immensely old trees for their size I should imagine) favouring the sandy soil along the river and on the eskers, and dense thickets of several species of willow (some up to 8-10 feet tall) along the sandy shores of the river. Now that the waters of the river are receding, thickets of formerly submerged willows are becoming exposed forming a drab gray fringe along the river in some places and contrasting with the fresh green of the new willow growth higher up the bank.

We have been taking advantage of the high water by making frequent canoe trips—lack of daylight is certainly not one of our worries! The sun goes down around midnight and

rises again in an hour or so. At all times there is enough light for taking photographs.

On one of our trips we were rewarded by the sight of three muskox bulls, quietly stripping the new leaves from the willows which appear to be their favourite food during the spring. They soon ran off, however, up over a rocky hillside, leaving a strong scent of musk among the willows where we examined the signs of their activities and looked at the bits of winter wool which the animals are shedding at this time. We marvelled at these impressive shaggy beasts as they nimbly clambered up the slope. The largest of them must have weighed close to a thousand pounds.

We also located the nest with five eggs of an American Rough-legged Hawk on a steep cliff-side. There was a huge amount of nest material (dry sticks) at the bottom of the cliff and the nest itself was large—it had probably been in use several years.

The numbers and species of birds near camp are almost unbelievable. We have located 12 nests all within a few hundred yards of the camp merely by stumbling upon them—

we have not been searching for nests. Longspurs and Redpolls are common; Greater Scaup, Old Squaw, Pintail are also numerous; Willow Ptarmigan are much in evidence anywhere; and geese (Canada and White-fronted) are seen daily. The Canada Geese are now moulting. Harris' Sparrow also nests here, but I have not yet seen its nest.

Although the river near camp and the channels between the islands are not good fishing spots we have had the opportunity to test some of the Thelon's rapids about six miles downstream. In one of these I caught a 20-pound Lake Trout. It may be of interest to **Blue Jay** readers of the Mammal Notes that this fish's stomach contained a freshly-caught Brown Lemming, *Lemmus trimucronatus*. Lemming tracks were abundant on the shore of the island from which we were fishing as well as among the large boulders just above the rapids. The lemming probably slipped off one of the rocks and before it could swim to shore was swept over the rapids where the hungry fish awaited it. So

not only birds and mammals prey on the abundant lemming, but on occasion fish as well!

Flowers have really come into bloom with a rush. Large tracts are solidly blue with Lupine. *Pyrola* and Bearberry with pink and white flowers are also prominent. In the bogs the *Ledum* has blossomed out on the hummocks with its sweet-scented white flowers.

All the wonders of nature are even more enjoyable when we write about them in the safety of the tent! Here at least we are free of the myriads of mosquitoes which make life almost unbearable without repellent or headnets and at best unpleasant even with these protective devices. And we try not to think about the black flies, the tiny tormentors which follow the mosquitoes and, at least to me, are far worse than the mosquitoes.

I trust that readers of the **Blue Jay** will be interested in some of these plant and wildlife observations made in the Thelon Game Sanctuary, an area which few will be able to visit.

A Traveller's Birding Recollections

by Timothy Dixon, Wells, Somerset

In a previous number of the **Blue Jay** I was flattered to find myself described as a "world-travelling bird watcher." Most of my experience derives from Europe, Australasia and North America, and these notes are confined to the two latter. They are a selection of a large bundle of memories acquired during my long journeys.

One of my happiest memories is of a short holiday in the Western Australian wheatbelt. In the evening, the Cockatoos resort to the dams on the farms and congregate noisily in the salmon gums round about. There are rosy-coloured Galahs, white Corellas with lime-yellow underwings, and Major Mitchells with upstanding crests and white plumage delicately suffused with salmon pink. The aborigines call the Major Mitchell "Chok-a-lok" on account of its cry. Pretty little Chestnut-eared Finches inhabit the castor oil bushes around the lonely homesteads, and flocks of the large, flightless Emu

cause small dust storms as they see the station wagon approaching and gallop away.

Very different are the moist and misty forests of Southern Victoria with their 200-foot Victorian mountain ash trees and fronded tree ferns. These forests are the dwelling place of that wonderful singer and mimic, the Superb Lyrebird, of the Eastern Whipbird which takes its name from its "whip-crack" call, of the confiding Pilot Bird (or Downy Pycnopsittacus) and the lovely Crimson Rosella Parrot. Some of the Lyrebirds in Sherbrooke Forest are very tame, and once while in close company with one, I whistled many tunes from symphonic tunes through hymns right down to ragtime. Cocking its head on one side from time to time, it listened intently, and I often wonder whether it remembered and reproduced any of the tunes.

One thinks of the Dominican Gull of New Zealand, 26 inches long, as quite a hefty bird. Yet how insignifi-

cant it looks in the company of Giant Petrels and Wandering Albatrosses! These birds, all typical of Southern coasts and keen ship-followers, associate freely in pursuit of the ferry boats crossing the Cook strait between Wellington and Picton. Whenever refuse is tipped out, the gulls arrive first. Then the Giant Petrels with their hooded, murderous eyes crash land heavily among the scraps and the gulls fly up like so many sparrows. Ultimately the Albatross is able to manoeuvre itself into the vicinity of the food, of which it takes possession, thrusting viciously at any petrel which might come too close. It seems the arbiter of the Southern ocean expanses, following ships tirelessly with massive hunched shoulders holding the bowed wings rigidly in position: more than any other bird it symbolises the majesty and splendour of the ocean spaces.

Right at the other end of the scale we have one of New Zealand's most interesting birds, the Wry-billed Plover. It is so called because its bill points somewhat to the right. I believe it is the only living bird able to claim this distinction.

Canada is such a large country that it has a variety of habitats with birds characteristic of each. For me, the song of the Golden-crowned Sparrow will always have a special appeal. At that joyous time in the Northern Hemisphere when the trees seem to become greener every day,

the song of the Golden-crowned Sparrow is at once pure, austere, and sad. The three deliberate notes in cadence, rather low in pitch, strike the ear and heart poignantly with their melancholy.

What a contrast is presented by the ebullient, extroverted notes of the Western Meadowlark! Their blithe, bubbling loudness pours joyfully through the car window as one drives through open country. Another contrast is the fruity squawking of the Yellow-headed Blackbird, eloquent of the marsh-fringed lakes and sloughs.

Lastly I must choose a bird from the Prairies. Around one stretches mile after mile of prairie, not exactly flat, but rising and dipping only just perceptibly—thus enhancing the sensation of vastness. Above is the grey sky. Suddenly, a trickle of notes is poured out, notes unlike those of any other bird save the Veery. No bird is seen, the song seems to be "uttered by nothingness out of nothingness"—by some disembodied spirit. It is the song of the Sprague's Pipit. To my mind, no bird is more evocative of the wide prairie.

Passing now from birds to human beings, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the many Canadian birders who so willingly gave of their time, transport, and bird wisdom in order that my expeditions should be successful.

1960 – The Year of the Owls

by **Stuart Houston**, Saskatoon

The year 1960 may be noted for many things, but for me and many others in the Yorkton area it will always be remembered as "the year of the owls". It got off to a good start on January 2, when I drove up to High Hill to band a Barred Owl caught by Steve and Anton Waycheshen. The Barred Owl is a new species on the Saskatchewan list (see **Blue Jay** 17:94, 1959 and 18:5, 1960) and this was the first individual to be banded in Saskatchewan.

Then came the onslaught of Boreal (Richardson's) Owls. Gary Anweiler snared the first one on

January 7 (see **Blue Jay** 18:61-63, 1960). By January 22, we had banded four and Gary was keeping a fifth for study purposes. We arranged to show Gary's bird on CKOS-TV, Yorkton, on Monday evening, January 25, and meanwhile Martin Busch of Calder caught another. During the special 15-minute program devoted exclusively to a discussion of Richardson's Owls, Gary and I each had an owl perched on our wrist, secured by falconer's jesses. The owls snapped and flapped their wings at the audience and from that moment "Richardson's

Dr Stuart Houston has moved to Saskatoon where he will do postgraduate study in diagnostic radiology for three years. His new address is 2401 Hanover Ave., Saskatoon.



Photos by Stuart Houston
Boreal (Richardson's) Owl

Owl" was a household name throughout the CKOS viewing area. Even those who missed the program heard all about it from their neighbors. Before the program was over, Steve Shebeluk of Calder left his set and dashed out to his machine shed to catch the little owl that he had seen while doing evening chores. That Saturday, Gary and I travelled over 300 miles to pick up Richardson's Owls from Fenwood and Arran and from Inglis in Manitoba, with an added bonus of a Saw-whet Owl at Hazelcliffe.

The interest aroused by the T.V. program of January 22 was largely responsible for the opportunity that followed—a weekly T.V. program during the spring migration season. Again a Richardson's Owl was on the scene to get the first program off to a good start on March 15—though I had to drive 120 miles over drifting roads in a blinding snowstorm after midnight to get the bird from Philip Adams, who had trudged two miles on foot through deep snow to meet me. This little owl captivated the audience the next evening and well repaid the effort involved in getting him. He was banded and released immediately after the program.

The twenty-fifth individual of this species was banded April 27. We were sure this was a "world record" and Chan Robbins kindly checked through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service banding records to confirm this. Never before had more than

three Boreal Owls been banded in any one year by the two thousand or more banders on this continent; the all-time total banded to the end of 1957 was only twenty.

Gary Anweiler and Bill Horseman were not content with our 1959 Great Horned Owl banding total of 70, and they talked all winter of banding 100 this year. Such enthusiasm is not to be discouraged, so to help locate sufficient nests I offered a prize of one Peterson's **Field Guide to the Birds** for the boy in the CKOS-TV area finding the most owl nests. The results far exceeded my expectations and on the final program on May 17 it was my pleasure to present **three** field guides—one to 16-year-old George Chopping of Dubuc, who found 16 owl nests (and I should add that he found another four later in the month); one to 11-year-old Myles Ferrie, of Invermay, who also found 16 nests; one to Ronald Hilderman of MacNutt, who found 10 nests. Each boy had a companion who had tramped with him—Doug Lambie of Dubuc, Eddie Shepherd of Invermay, and Timmie Wendell of MacNutt—and these boys were each presented with a year's subscription to the **Blue Jay**. Although the Horned Owl nesting density averaged one pair for each one or two square miles in each of the areas, it took many miles of walking to check every bush on a section of land in parkland country. For example, Chopping walked 31 miles in one day to find four Horned Owl nests and another day he walked 25 miles to find three owl nests. My



Saw-whet Owl caught by Jack Provick at Hazelcliffe



The first Horned Owl banded by Dr. Houston in 1960. For the story of how this adult owl was caught by these quick-thinking students of Armstrong School see *Blue Jay* XVIII:89, Sharon Pearce (Boys' and Girls' Section)

wife ungraciously remarked that the boys would have been further ahead if they had **bought** a field guide and saved their shoe leather!

The first nest of the year had been found alongside the C.N.R. track near Rhein by engineer Phil Walt of Melville, who had seen the adult bird sitting closely on the nest since February 28! When we visited the nest on our first banding trip on May 8, the four young were well advanced—but we had to prod the adult off with a long pole before Anweiler could go up and band the young. An occasional drop of rain was just starting to fall, and the old bird was sheltering the young with outstretched wings.

Sunday, May 15, was designated as "owl banding day" and Anweiler, Horseman and I set out soon after dawn. In the high wind, Anweiler netted a Short-eared Owl sitting on seven eggs south of Dubuc—the first of this species I had ever banded, bringing my total to 142 species. Chopping and Lambie showed us 13 Horned Owl nests with young of banding age, and two nests with young too small to band. That afternoon we stopped at two nests at Langenburg and went on to MacNutt where we visited another six nests

before dark. The total for the day was 52 young Horned Owls banded in 21 nests. The boys, their tongues hanging out after a strenuous day of tree climbing, announced proudly that this record should stand for some time.

On Sunday, May 22, Anweiler and I banded another 28 Horned Owls in 13 nests located near Saltcoats by Bill Horseman. On the May 23 holiday, we banded 24 Horned Owls in 11 nests near Invermay. Other birds were banded in the evenings until the season's total was no less than 150 Horned Owls banded in 66 nests.

It is unusual for a Horned Owl to raise four young to maturity and this seems possible only in years of abundant food supply. Two nests at Dubuc and one at Invermay, in addition to the one near Rhein, raised four young this year. Twenty nests had three young each and 32 had two young (though three of these had a third young too small to band). Five nests were known to have raised only one young, but in five other cases where only one young was banded, older nest-mates had already left the nest.

The first 44 nests visited to May 22 raised 108 birds or a remarkable average of 2.48 young per nest. Data

on the last 22 nests do not permit calculations as young had already left some of these nests. In addition to the 66 successful nests, two nests had blown down in storms and five had been deserted before the young matured. One owl was still sitting on a single infertile egg south of Invermay on May 23. We knew of five additional nests that time did not permit us to visit.

Mid-May is certainly the optimum time for banding Horned Owls in the Yorkton area. On May 15, only four nests contained young too small to band—and two of these nests were revisited later. However, of fifteen nests visited on May 23, only eight still contained young. Young were located nearby at three nests and at four the young could not be located at all. The hatch was remarkably uniform and the latest nest seemed to be one south of Saltcoats which contained two newly hatched young and one egg on May 22.

A record was kept of all food found in the nests. Of 25 Horned Owl nests visited up to and including May 15, only two nests had no food on hand. We found 3 Coots, 2 Crows, 1 Blue-winged Teal, 1 Horned Grebe, 1 Mallard, 1 long-eared Owl and 1 Deer Mouse. Seven nests contained a total of eight rabbits. But by far the biggest food item was the Pocket Gopher, as 16 of these nests contained an amazing total of 48 Pocket Gophers. One nest near Dubuc had two young rabbits and 15 Pocket Gophers piled three deep so that there was hardly room for the two young owls!

Of 32 later nests, nine contained no food. The remainder yielded 8 Coots, 3 Mallards, 1 Pintail, 1 Shoveler, 1 Blue-winged Teal, 1 Yellow-headed Blackbird, 4 rats, 2 rabbits and 3 mice. Nine nests each contained a single Pocket Gopher. At this stage, the young owls were well feathered and no doubt had larger appetites, thus leaving less untouched in the larder for us to see.

It is noteworthy that this year we again failed to find a single upland game bird in an owl nest (see **Blue Jay** 17:106-7, 1959). Once more we failed to find the slightest evidence that poultry had been molested by the owls. It must be extremely rare, therefore, for an owl to kill dom-

estic poultry or upland game during the nesting season in the "parkland area" of Saskatchewan. It is true that each fall one hears of some farmer who loses poultry to owls. The damage is believed to be done by an occasional young owl who is perhaps a poor hunter and develops a taste for domestic poultry. This was true of one of the young owls banded north of Saltcoats in 1959. It was killed on the evening of October 3, only half a mile from the nest where it was banded, while killing the seventh domestic chicken in seven nights! These individuals of course should be shot, but one must remember that they are the exception rather than the rule. I know of many farmers in this area of high owl density who have had owls nesting nearby for many years and never lost a chicken.

I read with interest Dick Lumsden's "Plea to Banders for Caution in Handling Great Horned Owls" (**Blue Jay** 18:18-19, 1960). I have been acutely aware of this danger, for when I was a youngster, two different boys in the Yorkton area lost an eye while visiting the nest of a Great Horned Owl. For this reason, I have always warned people never to climb a Horned Owl nest alone. We too have found that it is most dangerous to climb an owl's nest at dusk. However, we have never worn safety masks, as they can be awkward in climbing a tree. Certainly in the comparatively low nests in our prairie parklands (rarely more than 30 feet above the ground), we have relied on SAFETY IN NUMBERS. The parent owl will often attack a lone boy climbing to her nest, but will be bewildered by the sight of four to six noisy boys, each brandishing a stick, fanned out around the bottom of the tree. Three times this year we had to throw sticks at the owl coming in to attack, and thus deflected her. At other nests the waving, yelling boys successfully dissuaded the owls from any thought of attacking the lad at the nest. Our reserve protection we have only used once—at one high nest in an open clearing in 1959, I fired a shotgun blast in the air to frighten the owl which had struck Anweiler with its wing late the previous evening. Although the owls

must be watched with great caution, it is our experience that an even greater danger is that of falling from the tree. This year one lad fell 25 feet and landed on his head—a bit shaken, but miraculously unharmed. I should add that the sharpest blow to connect with my head this year was an unexpected one administered by a Long-eared Owl!

The next owl to take the limelight was the Short-eared Owl. Clarence Fick found a nest with seven eggs northeast of Yorkton on May 4, and Mervin Mroske found a nest with one egg on May 8. Alec Jowsey of Barvas and Jim Trowell of Saltcoats each found nests with six eggs on May 13. These first nests were in unthreshed swaths on the stubble and represented the first nesting dates I had for the Short-eared Owl in the Yorkton area. Through May and June, more reports poured in. Some of the later nests were in the more usual habitat of long grass and on the average seemed to fare better, since many of the early nests were destroyed during spring harvest operations and when the stubble was plowed or burned. Some farmers took great care to leave a piece of land unworked around the nest and some of these nests, in spite of their resulting exposed position, we know to have been successful. In every case, the farmer told me that he had never found a nest of this owl in past years. The population of this owl in the Yorkton district in 1960 was at least ten times higher than its usual low level; in fact, I would estimate that it had increased one hundredfold. It also seems quite definite that this sudden increase resulted from the abnormally high mouse population consequent to nearly half of the 1959 crop lying unharvested under the snow over winter.

Ed Ball, seven miles south of Willowbrook, found three nests on one 320-acre field of stubble. One nest was deserted at once, but the young disappeared at the rate of one daily from the other two nests. No

tracks of animals could be found and it is supposed that a Horned Owl may have taken one each night or that this might represent another case of "cannibalism" by the Short-eared Owls themselves.

Perhaps the observations of Joe Gillis at a nest one mile south of Theodore can help us understand the actions of this species in time of adversity. This nest contained six thriving young, well supplied with food up to and including June 3. That day one of the adults was found beneath the power line with a broken wing. When I visited the nests on June 4, the three older young were still thriving, but the dismembered and partially eaten remains of the younger three were scattered around the nest. Presumably the remaining parent could not hope to feed all six and so the three smallest were sacrificed in the interests of the preservation of the species.

At the time of writing, our Short-eared Owl banding total for the year stands at 68 young birds in 21 nests. I have Stanley Zazelenchuk of Stornoway to thank for banding four of these nests, and Jack Provick of Hazelcliffe for three. Of the other nests banded, Albert Walter of Dunleath, Keith Sherwin of Tonkin, and George Chopping of Dubuc, each located two, and Joe Gillis of Theodore, Ken Schwartz of Stornoway, Bill Bobyk and Alec Jowsey of Dunleath, and Don Rogers, Jack Zepp and Clarence Fick of Yorkton, each located one. In addition I made a number of futile visits to nests that had been deserted or destroyed.

It seems that the high levels of the mouse population this year were equally attractive to the Long-eared Owl, for some unusually high nesting densities were found this year. Sammy Bruce found two nests within 100 yards of each other, and a third nest on the same half-section, northeast of Saltcoats. One mile away, Herbie Cross also found three nests on his father's farm. South of Willowbrook, Clifford and Llewellyn Lovelace found seven Long-eared

Across the province at Bladworth, P. Lawrence Beckie makes a similar estimate of the increase in Short-eared Owls in 1960. He writes: "Over the last year I have noticed that the numbers of the Short-eared Owl have increased 100% in our district. Last year I did not see a single bird, but this year I believe there are three pairs nesting along the road within three miles of home." Lawrence Beckie also mentions finding his first Long-eared Owl's nest since 1947 on May 31 of this year.—Ed.

Owl nests on two sections of land. Bruce Kreba of Dunleath also found two nests not more than 150 yards apart. Stanley Zazelenchuk of Stornoway located five nests within a two-mile radius, and the 22 young were all banded. Time did not permit return visits to many of the nests that were located, but the total

of 73 young banded from 18 nests was still most satisfactory.

I had never dreamed it would be possible to band over 300 owls in just over six months. It was only possible through the cooperation of many people and the energetic assistance provided by the boys whose names I have mentioned.

Mass Mortality of Western Grebes

by R. W. Nero, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History



Photo by F. W. Lahrman

R. W. Nero examining Western Grebes frozen in the ice at Lake Newell, Brooks, Alberta.

On March 17, 1960, Fred Sharp (Provincial Naturalist, Ducks Unlimited), informed me of a mass mortality of the Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) at a lake in southeastern Alberta. Probably more than 1000 grebes perished as the result of a sudden freeze-up during the period of November 13 to 16, 1959, on Lake Newell, south of Brooks, Alberta. A report prepared by Sharp gives some details of his observations:

"On November 13th, on returning from a trip to southern Alberta I spent some three hours on the shores of Lake Newell observing the migration of waterfowl from the lake. The day was extremely cold: -19° with a 12 m.p.h. S.E. wind blowing. There

was a snow cover of 3.5 inches, and the day was clear. However, with the weather conditions what they were the wind chill would be in the -35° zone. The bays on the lake were frozen over at this time as it had been quite cold since the start of the month. On November 5th, for example, the temperature had dropped to -7° with a 13 m.p.h. wind. On the 13th, vapor was rising from the open body of water in the lake, collecting into a cloud mass and falling as snow over the village of Tilley nine miles east of the lake. At this time approximately two-thirds of the lake was still open, but what with the extreme cold and the wind, it was freezing in very fast; each incoming wave would wash up on the existing ice line and form a

pyramid of rough ice, giving the ice on the lake the appearance of meringue on a pie.

"I observed Western Grebes come out of the vapor very low and spill into these ice caps; they were then unable to rise and due to the very rough condition of the ice were even unable to walk back to the open water. The ducks and geese would appear out of the vapor, but high up, and continue on their way south. On making an observation of the ice line at this time I was able to count some 20 to 30 stranded grebes on the ice. They all appeared to be alive. At 5:00 p.m. I left the lake with the flights of ducks becoming fewer, and just the odd flock of geese pulling out to the south. The odd Western Grebe was still bulleting out of the vapor and spilling into and on to the ice. I do not recall seeing one airborne grebe coming off the lake area.

"I did not return to the lake until December 20th. However, just prior to this date I had a report that a great many American Coots had frozen into the lake. When I examined the area I found only Western Grebes. Most of the dead birds were found frozen imbedded in the ice, along the freeze-line of November 13 to 16. Many were in groups of five and six, but carcasses were found well dispersed all along the freeze-line of this period. There was a bird or two every two or three hundred yards on the shoreward side of the freeze-line, indicating that these possibly were the birds that had become partly air-borne, then spilled in. There are two theories as to what happened: that they swam or were blown in along the ice line, then became locked in small open pockets of water and were unable to take off; or that they became partly frozen over with droplets of water whipped up by the wind, and became too heavy to get into the air. The latter theory seems reasonable since many birds were found with just their bills sticking out of the ice and many others were partly submerged.

"The following figures give weather data for the period leading up to and after the freeze-up: Nov. 5: low -7°, wind S.E. at 13 m.p.h.; Nov. 12: low -5°, wind S.W. at 15 m.p.h.;

Nov. 13: low -19° wind S.E. at 12 m.p.h.; Nov. 14: low -3°, wind N.W. at 22 m.p.h.; Nov. 15: low -15°, wind N.W. 25 m.p.h.; Nov. 16: low -19°, wind S.E. at 13 m.p.h. (Data supplied courtesy Provincial Horticultural Station, Brooks.) After the last date given the weather warmed up to the mid twenties"

Fred Sharp, Charles Dougherty (Fish and Wildlife Officer, Alberta Dept. Lands and Forests), Fred W. Lahrman and I visited Lake Newell on March 26, 1960, at a time when the snow cover had melted away exposing the carcasses of the grebes. I wanted to get a series for sex and age studies and in about two hours we gathered more than 100 dead grebes from two areas on the east side of the lake, along a stretch of less than one mile. These were found scattered along a line two to three hundred yards offshore, corresponding roughly to the edge of the ice-sheet at the time of the quick freeze-up. Owing to recent severe thaws most of the birds were lying on top of the ice surface or were in shallow pools of water in depressions evidently formed as the heat of the sun drawn by the dark bodies melted the surrounding ice. However, some grebes were still deep within the ice; in a few cases only the tip of a wing could be seen. Many were widely scattered, but there were some concentrations of eight to ten birds and in two places up to 25 were found within a hundred yard circle. Some were found lying side by side or huddled in groups; a few were still in an upright position, and several were found with their feet folded and tucked up on the back, concealed beneath the flank feathers and the wings. Sharp and Dougherty reported at this time that grebes were to be seen in a similar fashion along the full length of the east and south side of the lake, a distance of about 12 miles. We estimated on this basis that there were from 50 to 100 dead grebes in each mile, or a total of from 600 to 1200. We felt this to be a conservative estimate.

On the next day (March 27) Lahrman and I visited M. Sven Bayer, a local naturalist who has lived for some 20 years on the southeast side of the lake. Mr. Bayer had also been



Photo by F. W. Lahrman

Western Grebes frozen in ice, Lake Newell

watching the grebes on the day of the freeze-up. His observations from the southeast lakeshore in front of his home agree with the account given by Sharp. Mr. Bayer stated that he thought the mortality was simply a matter of an unexpected and sudden freeze-up, and added that he had seen this happen to Western Grebes on several previous occasions, once during the last 10 to 15 years involving similar large numbers. Several Common Goldeneyes which had been on the lake, according to Mr. Bayer, simply flew off to safety during the storm. We have no record of mortality to any species other than Western Grebes in this incident. As A. C. Bent states: "This grebe, like others of its family, experiences considerable difficulty in

rising from the water..." (1946. Life histories of North American diving birds. Dodd, Mead and Co., New York). Grebes, like coots, need to run along the surface of the water for a considerable distance in order to get up flight speed, and the combination of strong wind, waves, and very low temperatures would seem sufficient to account for their inability to leave the lake.

Both Sharp and Bayer stated that Lake Newell is regularly used in spring and fall as a dispersal area or resting place for large numbers of grebes and that in the fall they usually remain until late in the year and close to freeze-up. Bent lists fall migration dates for Denver, Colorado, as October 25 to November 28.

Co-operative Spring

Compiled by
MARY HOUSTON
Saskatoon.

	BATTLEFORD Spencer Sealy	BLADWORTH Lawrence Beckie	DILKE Boswell Belcher	DUVAL Geo. N. Herber	ESTEVAN Ross Lein	FORT SAN E. M. Callin	GRENFELL Mrs. J. Hubbard
Whistling Swan	Ap16	Ap23			Ap23	Ap10	
Canada Goose	Ap 1		Ap11	Ap 9	Ap 8	Mr26	Ap18
Mallard	Ap 3	Ap 2	Ap 5	Ap 1	Mr31	Ap 3	Ap 6
Pintail	Ap 2	Ap 5	Mr28	Ap 3	Mr26	Ap 5	Ap 5
Marsh Hawk	Mr31	Mr30	Mr27		Ap10	Ap 5	Ap 5
Killdeer	Mr26	Ap10	Ap 4	Ap11	Ap 9	Ap10	Ap10
Common Snipe	Ap20			My 5	Ap27	Ap30	My13
Mourning Dove	My 7	My 6		Ap29	Ap 2	Ap29	My10
Common Nighthawk	My28	My25			My25	My27	My27
Ruby-throated Hummingbird ..	Jn 9					My23	Jn18
Yellow-shafted Flicker	Ap16	Ap22	Ap21	Ap27	Ap18	Ap21	Ap19
Eastern Kingbird	My30	My16	My17	My16	My28	My20	My18
Eastern Phoebe	Ap27					My 4	
Barn Swallow	My 5	My 9	My 4	My 5	My 7	My 9	My11
Purple Martin	My10				My19		My30
Common Crow	Mr30	Mr28	Mr26	Mr28	My27	Mr27	Mr29
House Wren	My19	My29	My25	My29	My21	My12	My23
Catbird	Jn 4				My24	My20	My23
Brown Thrasher	Jn 4	My19	My13	My19	My26	My13	My16
Red-eyed Vireo	My10				My24	My29	
Tennessee Warbler	My 6				My24	My17	
Yellow Warbler	My13	My13	My20	My14	My15	My15	My19
Myrtle Warbler	Ap23		Ap28		Ap26	Ap25	
Blackpoll Warbler	My11		My13		My 7		
American Redstart	My12		My24		My24	My23	
Bobolink	My17			My16		My29	My31
Redwinged Blackbird	Ap16	Ap 9	Ap13	Ap18	Mr26	Ap 6	Ap17
Baltimore Oriole	My24	My17	My17	My20	My17	My17	My19
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	My22	My24				My22	
American Goldfinch	My18	My22	My27	Jn 1	My26	My22	My24
Slate-colored Junco	Ap16	Ap 9		Ap18	Ap 1	My24	Ap11
Chipping Sparrow	Ap17	My14	My11	Ap29	My12	My 7	
White-crowned Sparrow	My 7	My 8	My10		My 4	My 8	My 8
White-throated Sparrow	My14		My11		Ap26	My 7	My 7

Migration Study, 1960

	HAZELCLIFFE Jack Provick	HIGH HILL Steve Waychesen	KINDERSLEY Glen A. Fox	KINLOCH Mrs. H. Rodenberg	LEADER Daisy Myers	MASEFIELD J. D. Chandler	MELVILLE G. Anweiler and V. Schmidt
Whistling Swan		Ap11	Ap18	Ap18			My 9
Canada Goose	Ap10	Ap23	Mr31	Ap11	Mr25	Mr21	Ap10
Mallard	Ap 8	Ap10	Mr28	Ap10	Mr28	Mr27	Ap 4
Pintail	Ap12	Ap13	Mr26	Ap17	Mr28	Ap27	Ap 4
Marsh Hawk	Mr 3	Ap10	Ap 7	Feb26		Ap12	Ap 4
Killdeer	Ap10	Ap10	Mr29	Ap18	My 2	Mr20	Ap 4
Common Snipe		My 1	Ap22	My 1			Ap22
Mourning Dove	Ap27	My 7	My18	My14	My 4		Ap29
Common Nighthawk		My24	Jn14		Jn 5		My20
Ruby-throated Hummingbird ..	Jn 4						My24
Yellow-shafted Flicker	Ap18	Ap20	Ap23	My10	My 1	Ap18	Ap18
Eastern Kingbird	My24	My25	My18		My16	My21	My19
Eastern Phoebe		Ap19		Ap24			My 1
Barn Swallow	My13	My 9	My13	My11	My21	My 8	Ap19
Purple Martin		My12	My15	My 2			
Common Crow	Mr28	Mr31	Mr31	Mr28	Mr28	Mr28	Mr27
House Wren	My20	My21	My16	My23	Jn 1		My19
Catbird	My25	My25	Jn 4			Jn 5	My22
Brown Thrasher	My21		My18		My19		My19
Red-eyed Vireo		My22					
Tennessee Warbler			My23				
Yellow Warbler	My21	My23	My23	My18	My18	My20	My16
Myrtle Warbler		Ap23	My11	My 8		My 8	Ap25
Blackpoll Warbler			My23				My19
American Redstart		My24	My23	My20			My22
Bobolink							My 7
Redwinged Blackbird	Ap17	Ap15	Ap16	Ap18	Ap21	Ap 4	Ap 7
Baltimore Oriole		My29	My23	My10	My18		My17
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	My24	My18		My17			
American Goldfinch		My23	My27		Jn 3	My22	My24
Slate-colored Junco	Ap12	Ap 5	Mr28	Ap10	Ap12	Ap12	Ap 3
Chipping Sparrow	My 8	My22	My27	Ap20		My22	My14
White-crowned Sparrow			My 7	My 9		My 6	My 8
White-throated Sparrow	My 9	My 7	My20	My 9			My 4

Co-operative Spring

	NIPAWIN Maurice G. Street	PRINCE ALBERT T. Capusten	REGINA F. Brazier, R.N.H.S.	SASKATOON Bremner, Folker, Gollop, Roy	SHEHO Wm. Niven	SKULL CREEK S. A. Mann	SOVEREIGN Mrs. Geo. Winny
Whistling Swan	Ap21	My 6	Ap11	Ap16	Ap21	Mr29	Ap19
Canada Goose			Ap 5	Ap12	Mr27	Mr21	Ap12
Mallard	Ap11	Ap17		Ap 2	Ap 9	Mr24	Ap 9
Pintail	Ap11	Ap20	Mr31	Ap 2	Ap 9	Mr30	Ap 8
Marsh Hawk	Ap12	Ap17	Ap 6	Mr26	Ap 1	Mr30	
Killdeer	Ap14	Ap17	Ap 4	Ap12	Ap10	Mr18	Mr23
Common Snipe		My 2	Ap25	My 4	My 2	Ap28	Ap 5
Mourning Dove	My 7	Jn12	Ap16	Ap23	Ap15	My 4	My29
Common Nighthawk	My24	My24	My28	My23	My23	Jn 5	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird ..	My29			My23	Jn 4		
Yellow-shafted Flicker	My 5	My 2	Ap19	Ap23	Ap20	Ap 4	My 2
Eastern Kingbird	My28	My29	My17	My19	My18	My26	My18
Eastern Phoebe		Ap20	My28	Ap23	Ap18		
Barn Swallow		Jn 4	My 5	My 9	My 9	My12	My20
Purple Martin		My 6	My 6	My 5	My10		
Common Crow	Ap 1	Mr11	Mr30	Mr31	Mr31	Mr29	Mr29
House Wren	My22	My26	My23	My20	My18	My12	
Catbird	My26	My30	My21	My23	My23	My26	
Brown Thrasher			My13	My18	My14	My17	My21
Red-eyed Vireo	My25	My 2	My22	Jn 2	My20	My24	
Tennessee Warbler	My17		My17	My23	My19		
Yellow Warbler	My23	My21	My11	My16	My17	My13	My25
Myrtle Warbler			Ap25	My 6	My10	My 7	My 7
Blackpoll Warbler	My23		My 6		My23		
American Redstart	My23	My21	My17	My23	My23		
Bobolink				My22	My20	Jn 17	
Redwinged Blackbird	My 7	Ap20	Ap15	Ap18	Ap14	Ap 9	Ap27
Baltimore Oriole	My21	My16	My17	My23	My20	My24	My24
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	My22	My21	My17				
American Goldfinch	My31		My21	My23	My26	My21	Jn 2
Slate-colored Junco	Ap14	Ap17	Ap 4	Ap17	Ap16	Ap12	Ap13
Chipping Sparrow	My16	My21	My10	My13	My12		My 5
White-crowned Sparrow	My 7		My 2	My 5	My 9	My15	Ap25
White-throated Sparrow	My 7		Ap26	My 6	My 7		Ap29

Migration Study, 1960

	SPIRIT LAKE Wm. Anaka	STORNOWAY Stan Zazelenchuk	TORCH RIVER C. Stuart Francis	URANIUM CITY Dr. R. W. Nero	WYNYARD Dora Bardal	YORKTON Dr. Stuart Houston	ERSKINE, Alta. Lloyd M. Lohr
Whistling Swan	My 8		My 4		My 7	Ap20	Ap 8
Canada Goose	Ap 6	Ap10	Ap20	My27	Ap10	Ap 3	Ap 8
Mallard	Ap10	Ap 9	Ap12	My 7	Ap10	Ap 6	Mr25
Pintail	Ap10	Ap10	Ap15	My30	Ap17	Ap 6	Ap 6
Marsh Hawk	Ap10	Ap 5	Ap 8	My12	Ap16	Mr30	Ap11
Killdeer	Ap12	Ap10	Ap12	My 8	Ap10	Ap10	Ap 2
Common Snipe	Ap20	My 3	Ap18	My12		Ap26	Mr17
Mourning Dove	Ap18	My 2	Ap20		My 4	My 8	My26
Common Nighthawk	My19	My23	My24	My29	My15		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird ..	Jn 5	Jn 1	Jn 2		My25		
Yellow-shafted Flicker	Ap21	Ap 7	Ap30	My 8	Ap20	Ap24	Ap27
Eastern Kingbird	My15	My18	My26	Jn 2	My28	My23	My19
Eastern Phoebe	Ap22	Ap28	My 9	My14		Ap24	My16
Barn Swallow	My 6	My10	My 8	My26	My 8	My 8	My13
Purple Martin	My 7		My15			Ap30	My 2
Common Crow	Mr31	Mr23	Ap 3	My12	Ap 4	Mr23	Mr28
House Wren	My18	My 6	My26		My18	My20	My19
Catbird	My24	My18			My26	My19	
Brown Thrasher	My18	My19			My26	My12	My26
Red-eyed Vireo	My19		Jn 8	Jn14			
Tennessee Warbler	My19			Jn 8			
Yellow Warbler	My14	My15		My30	My20	My15	My25
Myrtle Warbler	Ap21	My 4		My22		Ap24	
Blackpoll Warbler				My28			
American Redstart	My29				My25		
Bobolink	My19	Jn 6					
Redwinged Blackbird	Ap15	Ap14	My 6	My21	Ap22	Ap12	Ap18
Baltimore Oriole	My19	My18	Jn 2		My18	My22	My19
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	My19	Jn 2	My26			My23	
American Goldfinch	Jn 5	My25	Jn10			My22	My29
Slate-colored Junco	Ap10	Ap 8	Ap15	Ap 3	Ap17	Ap 2	Ap24
Chipping Sparrow	My15		My 1	My24	My 6	My12	
White-crowned Sparrow		My 4	My16	My12	My 7	Mv 9	Mv11
White-throated Sparrow	My 4	My 4	My12	My24	My 8	My 4	

FOURTH ANNUAL MAY DAY COUNT

SASKATOON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, MAY 23, 1960

May 23 was far from ideal weatherwise, with heavy showers falling throughout the day and the temperature at a constant 50°. Parts of the river bank at Moon Lake, normally covered in the May counts, had to be neglected this time. Fourteen observers in 3 parties identified 99 species, 13 fewer than in 1959 when we set an all-time record of 112 species in one day.

The list of birds seen follows. Last year's totals are given in brackets.

SPECIES LIST: Horned Grebe, 21 (2); Eared Grebe, 6 (1); Pied-billed Grebe, 4 (0); Mallard, 92 (114); Gadwall, 5 (15); Pintail, 23 (48); Green-winged Teal, 4 (2); Blue-winged Teal, 10 (72); American Widgeon, 19 (15); Shoveler, 25 (32); Redhead, 2 (1); Canvasback, 17 (16); Lesser Scaup, 50 (22); Ruddy Duck, 8 (2); Red-tailed Hawk, 1 (3); Ferruginous Hawk, 1 (0); Marsh Hawk, 5 (12); Pigeon Hawk, 3 (1); Sparrow Hawk, 2 (1); Sharp-tailed Grouse, 2 (3); Ring-necked Pheasant, 6 (14); Sora, 2 (0); American Coot, 55 (37); Killdeer, 12 (38); Spotted Sandpiper, 1 (5); Solitary Sandpiper, 1 (0); Willet, 9 (17); Lesser Yellowlegs, 5 (5); Peitoral Sandpiper, 17 (34); White-rumped Sandpiper, 2 (1); Baird's Sandpiper, 60 (15); Least Sandpiper, 15 (54); Marbled Godwit, 1 (7); Sanderling, 1 (10); Wilson's Phalarope, 18 (74); California Gull,

50 (6); Ring-billed Gull, 110 (56); Franklin's Gull, 76 (52); Black Tern, 119 (22); Rock Dove, 24 (not counted in 1959); Mourning Dove, 29 (62); Great Horned Owl, 3 (1); Burrowing Owl, 1 (0); Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 1 (0); Yellow-shafted Flicker, 3 (16); Hairy Woodpecker, 1 (2); Eastern Kingbird, 14 (18); Eastern Phoebe, 2 (2); Least Flycatcher, 26 (38); Horned Lark, 14 (9); Tree Sparrow, 16 (17); Bank Sparrow, 6 (12); Barn Swallow, 41 (13); Blue Jay, 2 (0); Black-billed Magpie, 34 (48); Common Crow, 71 (67); Black-capped Chickadee, 10 (3); House Wren, 14 (11); Catbird, 7 (2); Brown Thrasher, 26 (8); Robin, 33 (94); Swainson's Thrush, 18 (1); Veery, 1 (5); Mountain Bluebird, 7 (22); Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1 (0); Sprague's Pipit, 4 (3); Loggerhead Shrike, 3 (11); Starling, 29 (35); Red-eyed Vireo, 1 (0); Warbling Vireo, 4 (5); Tennessee Warbler, 2 (3); Yellow Warbler, 49 (67); Magnolia Warbler, 1 (0); Cape May Warbler, 1 (0); Black-throated Green Warbler, 2 (0); Ovenbird, 2 (0); Mourning Warbler, 1 (0); Yellowthroat, 1 (2); Redstart, 3 (3); House Sparrow, 162 (323); Western Meadowlark, 49 (150); Yellow-headed Blackbird, 39 (33); Redwinged Blackbird, 111 (64); Baltimore Oriole, 18 (11); Brewer's Blackbird, 79 (115); Common Grackle, 24 (23); Cowbird, 28 (48); Purple Finch, 1 (0); American Goldfinch, 12 (5); Rufous-sided Towhee, 9 (16); Savannah Sparrow, 26 (19); Vesper Sparrow, 59 (115); Chipping Sparrow, 24 (24); Clay-colored Sparrow, 67 (153); Harris' Sparrow, 1 (0); White-crowned Sparrow, 2 (0); White-throated Sparrow, 3 (1); Song Sparrow, 73 (35). Compiler: *Frank Roy*, Saskatoon.

BIRDS OF SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE SASKATOON AREA, SPRING, 1960

by **Frank Roy**, Saskatoon

Blue Goose—further records for Goose Lake (see **Blue Jay**, XVIII: 78)—13 seen on April 30; 12 on May 7. In both cases in company of Snow Geese. B. Gollop.

Rough-legged Hawk—a heavier flight of these hawks this spring than in any previous year. On several field trips they were the most common buteo observed. The migration lasted from April 2 to April 30.

Turkey Vulture—an erratic wanderer in this area. One observed on a sandpit in the South Saskatchewan River, May 7, 1960. R. Folker.

Long-billed Curlew—the first record within the immediate vicinity of Saskatoon—one adult, 14 miles southwest of the city, May 6, 1960. F. Roy.

American Avocet—particularly numerous this spring along the shores of the alkali lakes. A maximum count of 135 birds at Porter Lake, northeast of Saskatoon, May 29, 1960. B. Gollop.

Dunlin—first Saskatoon record; three observed at Burke Lake, 15 miles east of Saskatoon, May 25. R. Folker, J. Hogg, F. Roy.

Dowitchers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Greater Yellowlegs—late record, June 25, 1960, at a slough 3 miles northeast of Saskatoon: 2 Dowitchers, 6 Lesser Yellowlegs, 1 Greater Yellowleg. B. Gollop.

Burrowing Owl—rarely recorded at Saskatoon. One, just west of the city, May 23, 1960. R. Bremner, F. Roy.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Purple Finch—unusually heavy spring

migration for both these species. At least three Purple Finches hit picture windows and were brought for identification.

Bobolink—always scarce and local, have been located in at least six areas within a 30-mile radius of Saskatoon. Largest colony— 12 males—6 miles north and 4 miles west of Saskatoon. B. Gollop.

Lark Bunting—first Saskatoon records. Five males near the Forestry Farm, June 8 and 10, 1960. B. Gollop. One on Highway #5, 13 miles east of city. R. Folker.

Chestnut-collared Longspur — first Saskatoon record—small colony in pasture, just west of Burke Lake, 15 miles east of Saskatoon. Further study will be made of these birds. R. Folker, J. Hogg, F. Roy.

INFLUX OF LARK BUNTINGS AT HAWARDEN

by Harold Kvinge, Hawarden

We have had an influx of Lark Buntings into this area this summer. There are perhaps a dozen pairs just northwest of our buildings. I presume they are nesting as they have been around for some weeks, although I have not so far found any nests (up to July 15). This is the largest concentration of these birds in this district since maybe 1937 when they were all around here.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The movement of Lark Buntings northward into south-central Saskatchewan during the past two years has been noted with interest by birders in various districts. A year ago in the *Blue Jay* (XVII:129) we printed several reports of the increase of Lark Buntings in 1959 in areas where they had been scarce for some years. This year I have seen them commonly around Regina where, until they reappeared in small numbers last year, they have been more or less absent since the thirties, at which time they were considered a common breeding resident. At Moose Jaw, too, I have noted that they seem to be as common this year as during the thirties. North of Hawarden where Mr. Kvinge reports them as abundant, the Saskatoon Natural History Society is reporting Lark Buntings for the first time this year (see previous article in this issue by Frank Roy).

A REPORT ON SPRING MIGRATION IN THE REGINA AREA, 1960

Again this year members of the staff of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History and of the Bird Group of the Regina Natural History Society co-operated in a study of spring migration in the Regina area. Records submitted to the Museum and filed by Frank Brazier have been used as the basis for the following list of early arrival dates. A few additional dates were submitted to Margaret Belcher by members of the Bird Group and these have also been incorporated in the list.

Snow Goose April 20

Blue Goose (2) April 9

Gadwall (4) April 23

Pintail (23) March 31

Green-winged Teal April 14

Blue-winged Teal (2) April 21

American Widgeon April 7

Shoveler (6) April 10

Redhead. (2) April 10

Ring-necked Duck (2) April 17

Canvasback (1) April 8

Lesser Scaup (14) April 10

Common Goldeneye (5) April 1

Bufflehead April 17

Common Merganser (8) March 31

Red-breasted Merganser (1) April 10

Sharp-shinned Hawk (1) April 12

Marsh Hawk (1) April 6

Cooper's Hawk (1) April 12

Red-tailed Hawk (1) April 9

Broad-winged Hawk (1) May 3

Rough-legged Hawk (1) March 27

Ferruginous Hawk (1) May 6

Bald Eagle (1) April 11

Sparrow Hawk (1) April 11

Sandhill Crane (50) April 14

American Coot (1) April 15

SPRING ARRIVAL DATES, 1960

Species	Date
Horned Grebe (2)	April 23
Eared Grebe (2)	May 4
Western Grebe (1)	May 8
Pied-billed Grebe (2)	May 2
Double-crested Cormorant (2)	May 12
Black-crowned Night Heron (2)	May 1
Whistling Swan (4)	April 11
Canada Goose (a few)	April 5
White-fronted Goose (40)	April 9

Semipalmated Plover (1)	May 7	Orange-crowned Warbler (1)	May 4
Killdeer	April 14	Yellow Warbler (1)	May 11
American Golden Plover	May 9	Magnolia Warbler (3)	May 25
Black-bellied Plover (1)	May 7	Myrtle Warbler (3)	April 25
Common Snipe (1)	April 25	Audubon's Warbler (1)	May 31
Spotted Sandpiper (1)	May 3	Blackpoll Warbler (3)	May 6
Solitary Sandpiper (1)	May 3	Palm Warbler	May 15
Willet (1)	April 20	Ovenbird (1)	May 26
Greater Yellowlegs	April 30	Northern Waterthrush (1)	May 26
Lesser Yellowlegs (1)	April 9	Mourning Warbler (2)	May 25
Pectoral Sandpiper (1)	May 5	Macgillivray's Warbler (1)	May 28
Baird's Sandpiper (24)	May 6	Yellowthroat (1)	May 15
Long-billed Dowitcher	May 6	Wilson's Warbler (1)	May 24
Marbled Godwit (1)	April 28	American Redstart (1)	May 17
Hudsonian Godwit (27)	April 23	Western Meadowlark (1)	April 1
American Avocet	April 23	Yellow-headed Blackbird	April 15
Wilson's Phalarope (5)	May 10	Redwinged Blackbird	April 15
Northern Phalarope (6)	May 14	Baltimore Oriole	May 16
Herring Gull (6)	April 10	Rusty Blackbird (4)	March 30
Ring-billed Gull (7)	April 15	Brewer's Blackbird (several)	April 26
Franklin's Gull (2)	April 21	Common Grackle	April 18
Bonaparte's Gull (5)	May 4	Brown-headed Cowbird (1)	May 9
Forster's Tern	May 6	Rose-breasted Grosbeak (5)	May 17
Common Tern (2)	May 7	Lazuli Bunting (1-2)	May 30
Black Tern	May 9	Purple Finch (3)	April 25
Mourning Dove (2)	April 16	American Goldfinch (2)	May 21
Burrowing Owl (4)	May 6	Rufous-sided Towhee (1)	May 8
Short-eared Owl (1)	April 16	Lark Bunting (1)	May 21
Common Nighthawk (8)	May 28	Savannah Sparrow (1)	April 29
Belted Kingfisher (1)	April 22	Vesper Sparrow (1)	April 20
Red-shafted Flicker (1)	April 10	Slate-colored Junco (2)	April 4
Yellow-shafted Flicker (1)	April 13	Oregon Junco (1)	April 25
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1)	April 24	Tree Sparrow (1)	March 26
Eastern Kingbird	May 13	Chipping Sparrow (2)	May 10
Western Kingbird	May 12	Clay-colored Sparrow (2)	May 8
Say's Phoebe	April 30	Harris' Sparrow	May 10
Least Flycatcher (1)	May 10	White-crowned Sparrow (1)	May 2
Western Wood Pewee (1)	May 16	White-throated Sparrow	April 26
Horned Lark (3)	Jan. 31	Fox Sparrow (4)	April 25
Tree Swallow (4)	April 25	Lincoln's Sparrow (8)	May 2
Roughwinged Swallow (1)	May 19	Song Sparrow (1)	April 10
Barn Swallow (1)	May 5	Lapland Longspur	April 4
Purple Martin (1)	May 6	Chestnut-colored Longspur (2)	April 15
Common Crow (12)	March 30		
Red-breasted Nuthatch (2)	May 3		
Brown Creeper (1)	April 26		
House Wren (1)	May 23		
Catbird (1)	May 21		
Brown Thrasher (1)	May 13		
Robin (11)	April 10		
Hermit Thrush (1)	April 24		
Swainson's Thrush (1)	May 4		
Gray-cheeked Thrush (4)	May 5		
Mountain Bluebird (1)	March 26		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1)	May 5		
Water Pipit (2)	May 1		
Sprague's Pipit (a few)	April 16		
Cedar Waxwing (2)	May 19		
Loggerhead Shrike (1)	April 10		
Solitary Vireo (2)	May 26		
Red-eyed Vireo (1)	May 16		
Warbling Vireo (1)	May 17		
Tennessee Warbler (4)	May 17		

NEST RECORD CARDS

As soon as your summer nest record cards are completed please send them in so that a summary of nesting information for 1960 may be prepared for a report in the BLUE JAY. Cards should be sent to:

**Prairie Nest Records Scheme,
c/o Saskatchewan Museum of
Natural History, Regina.**

REDWINGED BLACKBIRD WITH WHITE WING PATCHES SEEN AT REGINA

On June 4, 1960, the Regina Bird Group visiting a marshy slough five miles west of the city saw a Redwing with conspicuous white feathers in both wings. These showed as narrow white stripes when the wings were closed but were very conspicuous in flight. About six of the large outer feathers in each wing were pure white and there was a third smaller patch of white feathers closer to the body on the rear of the left wing. The white patches did not affect the red shoulder patches which seemed particularly bright.

There were other Redwings in the area but the centre of the marsh was mainly held by Yellow-headed Blackbirds. The conspicuous Redwing with the white wings was displaying, isolated from other Redwings, in a corner of the marsh close to the road and he frequently perched on a lone post on the edge of the territory. He was observed in this spot again on June 5, 6, and 7. One or two females could also be seen in the territory.

The bird was still in the area on the same post on July 23. He was also seen on telephone wires among a group of female and normal-plumaged juvenile Redwings, but it is not definitely known whether he was successful in raising a family.—G.F.L.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOWS IN ARM RIVER VALLEY

P. Lawrence Beckie of Bladworth reports that on May 29, 1960, he saw his first Rough-winged Swallow near a bridge along the Arm River near Bladworth. He went to check it for nesting on May 31, but the swallow was no longer there. Rough-winged Swallows (3) were also observed at another location along the Arm River, near Findlater, by Margaret Belcher on the same day that Lawrence Beckie made his observation. Almost a week earlier (May 23) George Ledingham noted three Rough-winged Swallows flying over the Qu'Appelle Valley at Lumsden, and three were seen again in the same location on May 29 by Margaret Belcher. However, Rough-winged Swallows were not noted there by the Bird Group, June 4.

LAZULI BUNTING AT FORT SAN

by E. M. Callin, Fort San

On July 12, 1960, I had the good fortune to see my first Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*). A strange song had been heard near our house at noon on the previous day but upon being approached the singer disappeared and became silent. At 6.50 the next morning the song was heard again in the same area and twice during the next half hour I was rewarded by brief observations of this beautiful stranger before the House Sparrows and next a Catbird took exception to its presence and drove it away. Undoubtedly the bird, probably a lone male, soon moved on, for up to the date of writing (July 18) it has not been seen or heard again.

The breeding range of the Lazuli Bunting, according to the A.O.U. *Check-List of North American Birds* (5th Edition) includes southern Saskatchewan. However, we usually associate this species with the mountains and foothills of southern B.C. and Alberta, and there are not many Saskatchewan records. Mr. Fred Bard reviewed Saskatchewan records in the **Blue Jay** when Nancy Dunn reported a Lazuli Bunting nesting at Moose Jaw in the summer of 1957 (**Blue Jay**, XV:147).

Previous records in or near the eastern half of the Qu-Appelle Valley are as follows: George Lang reported taking two birds on May 24, 1890, and another on May 26, 1892, at Indian Head (H. H. Mitchell, 1924. *Catalogue of the Birds of Saskatchewan*) but these specimens are not extant. On May 26, 1929, a male remained most of the day about the Callin farm yard near Pervical and was twice observed by Elmer Callin at close range. On May 26, 1931, Fred Bard took a specimen at Round Lake and listed the species as a probable nester there. Mr. Bard's specimen was the first established record for the province, adding a new species to the official list of Saskatchewan.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Callin may be interested to know that a Lazuli Bunting was observed earlier this year in Regina. A male bird was seen briefly in the Legislative Park on May 30, 1960, by Margaret Belcher and George Ledingham. A second sparrow-coloured bird, glimpsed too briefly for positive identification, may have been the female. Neither bird was seen again.

AN OSPREY NEST AT TORCH RIVER

by Maurice G. Street, Nipawin



Photo by M. G. Street

Osprey nest at Torch River, June 10, 1960.

On June 10, 1960, with Ann, Billy and Walter Matthews, I visited the nesting tree of a pair of Ospreys located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 31-53-15 W2. This is approximately 18 miles north and six miles west of Nipawin, and little over a mile southwest of C. Stuart Francis' Spruce Dale Farm at Torch River.

The nest tree is a dead jackpine, standing amid scattered dead trees and stubs on a burnt-over area on the south slope of the Torch River and about one-half mile from the river itself. The nest is placed at the extreme tip of the tree at an estimated 80 feet from the ground. The nest appears to be approximately four feet wide with a depth of three feet.

The female, a very dark bird, left the nest when we were 100 yards distant, then continually circled in the vicinity and several times alighted on the nest during the half hour we spent there. The male meanwhile sat quietly some 150 yards away on another tall tree. No young could be

seen from the ground, nor were there any droppings at the base of the tree. Therefore it seems probable that the nest contained eggs or very young birds.

During our observation of the Osprey's nest a pair of House Sparrows were seen to enter the base of the nest and the chirpings of the young sparrows could be clearly heard.

The food source of this pair of Ospreys is unknown. It seems unlikely they could take the required amount from the Torch River, as small fish appear to be scarce there. The nearest lake known to contain coarse fish is Falling Horse Lake, a small lake 30 air-line miles to the north.

This nest falls within the Nipawin district as defined in the *Birds of the Saskatchewan River* (C. S. Houston and M. G. Street, 1959). Therefore it is a new nesting record for the district, making a total of 132 species for which nests have been found—and 142 species breeding.

TREE-NESTING MALLARDS

by Spencer Sealy, Battleford

Having just re-read Frank Roy's article on the tree-nesting Mallard in the September, 1958, issue of the **Blue Jay** (XVI:104), I thought that I would tell you about my experiences with this phenomenon. In May, 1958, five and one-quarter miles south of Battleford, a nest of six eggs was found in a twelve-foot willow in an abandoned crow's nest seven feet from the ground. I did not see this nest that year because it was found by another boy, but on May 19, 1959, I went to look at the old nest and found a Mallard nesting in another old crow's nest not ten feet away from the old site. This was eight feet from the ground and contained six eggs. I got a coloured slide of it. Again this year on May 21 I found another tree-nesting Mallard about one-quarter of a mile away from the two other old sites but still in the vicinity of the same lake. It was eleven feet up in an aspen and contained seven eggs. I had planned to make a blind at a good vantage point to make observations and take photographs, but the nest was destroyed before I was able to carry out my plans. I also found another Mallard nest in a tree about five miles south of here on May 28, 1960, which contained the membranes of eggs. This nest was about twelve feet up in an aspen and was quite far from water.

AN UNUSUAL NEST OF A MOURNING WARBLER

by Maurice G. Street, Nipawin

One of the biggest thrills of 1960's summer birding was the finding of my fourth Mourning Warbler's nest on July 6. The habitat was quite different from that of the three previous nests I found also near the ground but in high, dry places. This nest was well in from the edge of a treed muskeg, 1½ miles north of Nipawin. The nest was built several inches above the ground in a tangle of grass and vines amid the branches of a fallen, stunted tamarack lying on one side of a large hummock. It contained three half-grown young. Finding the nest of a

familiar species in new habitat was almost like finding a new species nesting.

Roger Tory Peterson's account of the Mourning Warbler in the new book *Warblers of America* states that "Mourning Warblers seem to have two preferred habitats in which to nest—dry slashings and ravine slopes choked with brambles and other scrubby vegetation, and also the bushy edges of swamps and bogs."

I also found my fourth nest of the Boreal Chickadee on June 5, 1960, with two eggs, in a natural cavity of a tamarack stub, atop a low hummock well out in open bog. The nest opening was two feet above ground. I was able to show it to Connie Pratt and Sylvia Harrison when they called in after the summer meeting at Greenwater.

A SEASON'S NESTING RECORDS FROM A SASKATCHEWAN FARM

by Mrs. K. D. Paton, Oxbow

On our farm at Oxbow we have had a wonderful assortment of song birds this spring. At first the cats did a great deal of harm to eggs and young and four cats and five young kittens met their end as a result, but most of the birds have nested again and the young are hatched or hatching now (July 12, 1960).

I've had a few exciting "finds" this year, the best one being a **Mountain Bluebird's** nest with one egg in a hollow telephone pole on a back road between us and the town of Carlyle (near the lakes). The pole was leaning so I hope someone doesn't decide to replace it soon. We have seen Mountain Bluebirds quite near us this summer and have heard reports of them north of us where there is considerable poplar bluff.

I also found a **Warbling Vireo's** nest in our yard, near my clothesline. The nest is only six feet or so from the ground and now contains four eggs, and the bird is quite tame. We found an empty nest once before but it was much higher up. They're here every year for they sing almost constantly. The little "chebek" flycatcher (**Least Fly-**

catcher) is always here, but I can't find his nest. The **Black-billed Cuckoos** are nesting, too, but I haven't been able to find their nest either.

The **Tree Swallows** looked over our old binder twine box but did not remain—they lost a nest there last year, so I was very pleased to find a nest of young ones in a hollowed-out poplar near our well yesterday. I'll have to use a mirror to try and determine how many young there are. The tree is just a small one, too; it must have been crowded for a **Flicker**. We saw flickers in that bluff last year, but never did find the hole in the tree. The flickers were in a hollow maple this year and I believe they had a successful hatch.

The **Brown Thrashers** had a really early hatch of five but lost them to cats. Now I believe they are nesting again, although I cannot find them. Nests of the **Robins** are also difficult to find here on the farm, which seems strange when you consider how conspicuous the Robin is on a city lawn. Although we looked in vain this year for their nest, we did see at least one young bird. The adults are still about and I think they must be sitting again. Since the maples in the shelterbelt are old there are lots of good corners where nests might be concealed.

There were five nests of **Mourning Doves** for a while, but the wind, cats and **Grackles** got them all, I think. Some have set again, but so far any nests I find are too high for me to examine. **Brewer's Blackbirds** nested everywhere but had bad luck, too. Some have nests again, as have both the **Eastern Kingbird** and **Western Kingbird**. Our **Baltimore Orioles** took some strings off the clothes-line but where they took them, I don't know. We found a dead male just at nesting time but there still seemed to be two or three birds around, and we thought there should have been a brood of young.

There has been no sign yet of the **Mockingbird** that we have seen in the shelterbelt on some occasions. And the **Yellow Warblers** must have nested elsewhere this year because we see them only occasionally. On the other hand, we hear the **Yellow-throats** often and nearly every bluff

seems to have one in it when one is travelling in the country. Down along the Souris River there are lots of **Catbirds** as usual; however, I haven't seen one on the farm this year, though there are some in the town of Oxbow.

Recently a **Willet** and her mate brought their four downy young through our house yard on their way to the slough. It was raining at the time and the old bird would crouch down just like a hen over the young.

The **Meadowlarks** lost two nests here but their singing seems to indicate that they have nested again. Nearly every nest of every species had one or more **Cowbird's** eggs in it this year. I thought this unusual because I have not found Cowbird's eggs in the nests before. The **Bobolink** sang continuously in a little field near our house but now he is gone, and I wonder whether something has happened to his nest. Last year the parent bird brought the young ones for water right to the house.

A friend of ours at the river reports a **Cedar Waxwing's** nest and also a **Mallard** duck that hatched her young in an abandoned **Magpie's** nest there.

Apart from the resident birds that are with us all summer, a great deal of interest in the farm yard is provided by the various migrants. For example, a honeysuckle bush right at our window has provided passing shelter for a large number of strays over the years, even an **Ovenbird**. Early this spring we enjoyed seeing a **Red-headed Woodpecker** make the rounds of all the fence posts in our yard. These transients, however, do not provide the same opportunity for study as the resident birds that nest here with us on the farm.

ANNUAL MEETING

Support your society by attending the annual meeting in the Museum, Regina, October 22, 1960. Learn what the society is trying to do and come prepared to offer your comments and constructive criticisms.

Pigeon Hawk Catches Dragon-flies

by **Maurice G. Street**, Nipawin

On June 19, 1960, I banded five nestling Pigeon Hawks in a nest on the north border of the Nipawin Golf and Country Club. Playing golf several times a week gave me ample opportunity to keep a fairly regular watch on the nest, and after the young were flying, to observe them.

While on the golf course on the rather warm and humid evening of July 14, I noted great numbers of a species of large dragon-fly flying everywhere. Several times I observed a Pigeon Hawk flying low over the grassy fairways, twisting and turning, much in the manner of a swallow. As the hawk seemed to appear at regular intervals on one particular fairway bordered by tall spruce and pine, I decided to take a closer look, and I was well rewarded by doing so. There I saw the most amazing display of flying I have ever wit-

nessed. The Pigeon Hawk, the female parent of the brood I had banded, was catching the large dragon-flies while in full flight. Flying close to the ground, the hawk would catch the dragon-flies by turning on her side and sometimes completely turning over, to attack from below, and snatch them with her feet. It appeared that on a single foray of several hundreds of yards, back and forth, she would catch perhaps five or six dragon-flies, then fly in the direction of a tall group of trees and at the same time uttering the typical Pigeon Hawk call, a rapid "kee-kee-kee." This call the five young would answer, at the same time flying from the trees to meet her, and then after a great clamour, they would fly back to the trees. After a few moments, the female would then begin to hunt once more.

A Note on Anting

by **Peter Gregg**, La Ronge

On June 27, 1960, in the early evening three Common Grackles were feeding on the ground and exposed rock surfaces near our house at La Ronge. The birds were foraging independently between five and 20 feet apart. One grackle was repeatedly observed to make short runs of perhaps ten quick steps or less, stop and pick up something from the ground or bare rock with his bill. The surprising part of this was whatever it was that the bird picked up, it immediately tucked the object under its wings or rubbed it along the leading edge of its primary feathers. Other times it would tuck the object into the feathers above the base of the tail. The bird was very excited in these actions and its wings flipped about a lot and the bird nearly lost its balance several times. This unusual behaviour lasted several minutes until the grackle was disturbed and flew off.

Although I could not see with my field glasses what the grackle had been picking up, I believe the bird was exhibiting a rather unusual behaviour pattern referred to in literature as "anting." Anting has been observed in many species including

the Robin, Starling, Common Grackle, Common Crow, Black-billed Magpie, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

An early note of Audubon's mentioned young turkeys dusting in deserted ants' nests to get rid of "loose scales and prevent ticks and other vermin from attacking them, these insects being unable to bear the odor of the earth in which ants have been."

Another suggested explanation is that the bird is pleasurably stimulated by the crawling of the insects and their acrid secretions or that the birds are ridding the ants of acid before eating them. Still another explanation is that the birds employ the ants to help rid them of their parasites. This might be accomplished either by the ants carrying off some of the lice or mites, etc., or more likely, by the beneficial effect of the formic acid secreted by the ants.

Tame birds have been observed to dress their feathers with lemon juice or vinegar, supporting the idea that the birds are seeking an acidic dressing when they exhibit "anting behaviour."

Lake Athabasca Records of Interest

Compiled by **Stuart Houston**, Saskatoon

Very little is known of bird distribution in the northern third of Saskatchewan. The results of two important collecting trips to Lake Athabasca, by Francis Harper in 1920 and by T. M. Shortt in 1945, unfortunately have not appeared in print. I recently had the privilege of checking the Saskatchewan ranges for the forthcoming new edition of Peterson's *Field Guide to the Western Birds* and realized more acutely than ever how little we know of the breeding ranges of birds in northern Saskatchewan. I wrote to Harper and Shortt concerning certain key species and I felt the information they supplied should be placed on record.

Arctic Loon: One seen August 15, 1920, by Francis Harper on the water about a mile east of Moose Island on the north shore of Lake Athabasca (long 108° 20', east of the former Goldfields townsite). Harper states: "It dove a couple of times at my approach and disappeared then for good, perhaps around an island. I clearly saw the smoke-gray of its occiput." Shortt did not record this species in 1945. There are no known breeding records for Saskatchewan.

Black-billed Magpie: Thomas Heaslip listed this species in his list of birds seen at Uranium City (**Blue Jay** 17: 58, 1959). Correspondence with Heaslip has disclosed that this bird was a winter wanderer that stayed in the vicinity of the Lorado Mining Camp garbage dump for three weeks in November, 1957. This is the first published record of this species for the northern third of Saskatchewan,

though other stragglers have occurred at Brochet, Manitoba (see Snyder, *Can. Field-Nat.* 49: 152, 1935, where Brochet is incorrectly said to be in Saskatchewan). Other stragglers must go even further north, as three were shot by Joseph Yank in 1943-44 on the Dubawnt River, 50 miles southeast of Dubawnt Lake, in the Northwest Territories, and some 150 miles north of the northern boundary of Saskatchewan. (Rand, *Can. Field-Nat.* 59: 45, 1945).

Blackpoll Warbler: T. M. Shortt collected a nest and one flightless juvenile at Fond-du-lac on July 21, 1945. This would appear to constitute the first and only nesting record of this species for Saskatchewan.

Common Redpoll: On July 21, 1945, at Fond-du-lac, Lake Athabasca, T. M. Shortt collected a male (with still large testes) and a female (with ruptured ovarian follicles) within a few yards of each other. He did not find a nest or young birds. There are no Saskatchewan breeding records for this species.

Red Crossbill: On both July 15 and July 16, 1945, T. M. Shortt collected a family group of male, female, and two flying young. This was in one of the most extensive pine areas that he encountered and Shortt presumes that they nested nearby. However, the young were fully developed, and it is possible that they had flown some distance. Although there are summer records for Emma Lake, Prince Albert, Nipawin, and the Cypress Hills, there are no definite breeding records of this species for Saskatchewan.

Some Saskatchewan Bird Observations

by **Lawrence H. Walkinshaw**, Battle Creek, Michigan

During late May and early June, 1947, W. A. Tholen and I visited central Saskatchewan. For several days we were at Yorkton; we spent another few days at Nipawin. From June 6 to 11 we were at Fishing Lake, 75 miles northwest of Nipawin. From June 14 through June 16 we were 3-6 miles northwest of Snowden. Here we had seen some good marsh areas from the air.

At Fishing Lake we had no transportation so had to go by foot or in the lake itself by boat. We saw 74 species of birds right around the lake. Following are some of the more important:

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grise-gena*). A massive floating nest found June 10, was built in two feet of water amongst the tules of the west side of the lake and contained 3

eggs (measuring 55 by 36.5; 52.8 by 36.5 and 54 by 36.4 mm.). Two other nests were still empty. We observed six birds that one day.

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*). Four to 8 birds observed daily. Two nests were found on a boggy island in the beaver pond on June 10. One had 7 eggs (average 58.8 by 40.1 mm.); the other had only one egg.

Spruce Grouse (*Canachites canadensis*). Nest and 7 eggs, June 6 (See *Wilson Bulletin*, 1948, 60:118).

Sora (*Porzana carolina*). A pair had a nest along the edge of the beaver pond. The incubating parent went by me with her wings drooping, and calling a low sharp 'Keee.' She was soon followed by her mate. The nest was built of sedges in sedges in 21 cm. of water hidden under some dead spruce branches. The 10 eggs averaged in measurements, 33.12 (31-34.5) by 23.41 (22.6-24.0) m.m. and 9.77 grams in weight. (I found another nest June 14 at Snowden, T53, R19W2, Sect. 2 in a cattail marsh. This nest had 12 eggs averaging in measurements, 31.07 (29.2-33.5) by 22.3 (20.7-23.2) mm., and in weight, 7.7 (6.5-8.4) grams.)

Greater Yellowlegs (*Totanus melanoleucus*). 1-3 birds daily); A male was taken June 7 (Univ. Mich. Mus. Zool.), weight 195.8 grams; measurements, wing, 189 mm.; tail, 80 mm.; ex. cul., 57 mm.

Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper (nest and 2 eggs, June 8; 3 eggs June 9-10) and Solitary Sandpiper were also observed.

Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*). A male was taken June 7, which weighed 202.2 grams. It measured: wing, 257; tail, 95; ex. cul., 32 mm. We observed 2-12 birds daily.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*). Four birds observed on June 9, of which one was taken (UMMZ). Weight, 133.2 grams. Measurements: wing, 267; tail, 137; tar., 20; ex. cul., 35 mm. Two were observed June 10.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*). Two to 16 observed daily.

Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus richardsoni*). A male was collected from dense white spruce forest, June 9. Weight, 118.6 grams. It measured: wing, 171; tail, 105; ex. cul., 20 mm. (UMMZ).

Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*). Six to 12 birds around our cabin daily (52 observed on 6 days). (Also observed 2 daily at Snowden, June 13-16, inc.).

Boreal Chickadee (*Parus hudsonicus*). Two to 4 birds observed daily. A nest with 5 eggs was found June 10 built 8 ft. up in a 4-inch, dead white birch about 20 ft. out in the beaver pond.

Warblers observed at Fishing Lake included: Black and White (5 on two days); Tennessee (3 on two days); Yellow (7 on four days); Cape May (*Dendroica tigrina*) (male collected, June 7. Weight 10.0 grams; Measurements: wing, 65.5 mm.; tail, 46 mm.; tarsus, 15.5 mm.; ex. cul., 10 mm.); Myrtle (25 on six days); Bay-breasted (2 on June 6); Blackpoll (1 on June 10); Palm (1 on June 11); Ovenbird (10 on four days); Water Thrush (7 on three days); and Redstart (3 on two days).

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). A male taken south of Fishing Lake, June 6, weighed 51.1 grams, and measured: wing, 113 mm.; tail, 79 mm.; tarsus, 27 mm.; ex. cul. 17 mm. At Fishing Lake 11 birds were observed on five days.

The Slate-colored Junco (24 birds), Chipping Sparrow (26 birds), and the Song Sparrow (21 birds) were observed daily and the commonest sparrows. The Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) was also found (3 birds in two days). (At Nipawin, this species was very common. Maurice Street and I found four nests, June 12, with 4, 4, 4 and 5 eggs respectively.. The eggs averaged in measurements: 17.02 (15.8-18.0) by 13.04 (12.8-13.4) mm., and in weight 1.45 grams. The nests were all built in small spruces in the very dense part, averaging 27 cm. (16-43) above ground.

In addition to the notes given above I observed at Snowden the following birds: Pied-billed Grebe (nest, 7 eggs); Horned Grebe, nest with 6 eggs (averaged in measurement 43.8 (40.9-48.5) by 30.5 (30-31.5) mm., and in weight 27.0 grams.); Green-wing Teal, 2 broods of young on June 14, 8 newly hatched young; June 15, 9 young a few days old; Pintail female with brood of 7 young, June 15; Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*), pair apparently

with young June 14. They ran around me with drooping wings; Coot, two nests; June 14; Lesser Yellowlegs, downy young with parent, June 14; Black Tern, two nests, June 14 (1) 1 egg, (2) 3 eggs; and a third nest June 15, 1 egg.

At Snowden I observed 125 Red-wings and 11 Brewer's Blackbirds. Sparrows were much more abund-

ant here than at Fishing Lake and some species more common than at Nipawin. In three full days I observed: Savannah Sparrows (22); LeConte's (39); Vesper (11 and nest with 4 eggs); Junco (2); Chipping Sparrow (2); Clay-colored (38); White-throated (2); Lincoln's (4); Swamp (3); Song (14 and two nests —4 eggs and 5 eggs).

Game Act Revised To Protect Hawks And Owls

In the June, 1960 issue of the **Blue Jay** we inserted a brief notice of the amendment to the Game Act offering further protection to hawks and owls. Members of our society have since asked us to publish the amendment in full.

Section 10 of the Game Act for the Province of Saskatchewan was amended March, 1960, to read as follows:

"(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), no person shall hunt, take, shoot at, wound or kill any game bird or any other bird that is wild by nature and in a state of nature, except crows, magpies, blackbirds, cowbirds, grackles, English sparrows and such other birds as may be designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, unless he is expressly authorized to do so by this Act or by a subsisting licence or permit issued to him pursuant to this Act.

"(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a person may, without such licence or permit, hunt, take, shoot at, wound or kill snowy owls, great horned owls and goshawks during the period from the first day of November in any year to the last day of March in the following year, both dates inclusive, unless with respect to any such period or any portion of any such period the Lieutenant Governor in Council by order declares that this subsection shall not apply during that period or portion.

"(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) but otherwise subject to this Act and the regulations, an owner or occupant of any land outside a city,

town, village or hamlet, actually domiciled and living upon any part of such land, may hunt, take, shoot at, wound or kill game birds within the limits of such land without a licence or permit during open seasons."

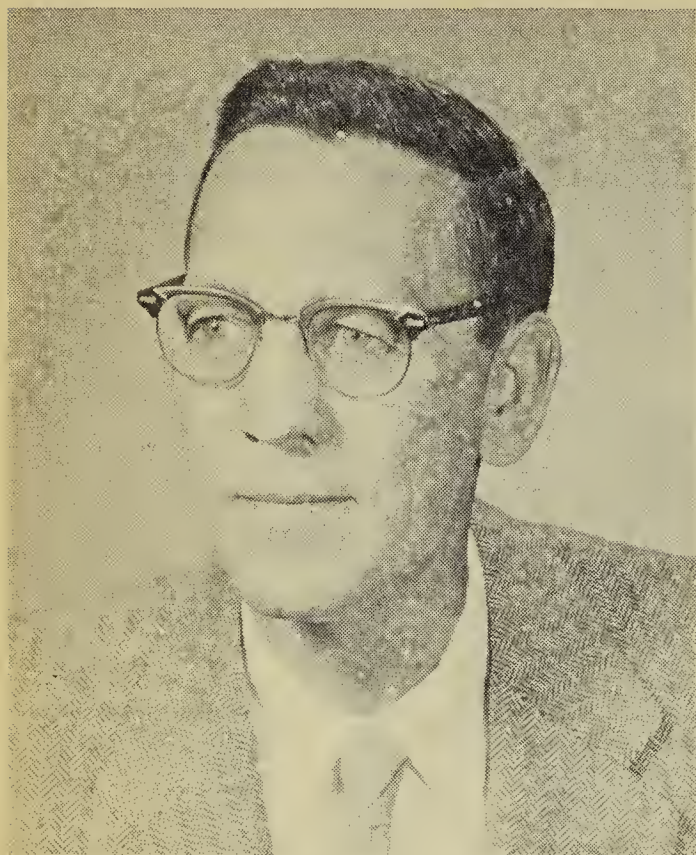
Formerly, Section 10 read in part as follows:

"(1) Subject to subsection (2), no person shall hunt, take, shoot at, wound or kill any game bird or any other bird which is wild by nature and in a state of nature, except crows, magpies, snowy owls, great horned owls, goshawks, pigeon hawks, duck hawks, Cooper's hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, blackbirds, cowbirds, grackles, English sparrows, cormorants and such other birds as may be designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, unless he is expressly authorized to do so by this Act or by a subsisting licence or permit issued to him pursuant to this Act."

Subsection 3 of section 10a, which permits the landowner to protect his stock and poultry against depredation by hawks and owls, reads as follows:

"(3) Nothing in subsection (1) or (2) shall prevent a person from hunting, taking, shooting at, wounding or killing any wild animal or wild bird in a building in which poultry or domestic animals are kept or within six hundred feet from such building or from a hive where domestic bees are kept or for the purpose of protecting live stock or poultry on land owned or occupied by him."

Introducing Doug Wade



Sask. Govt. Photo

DOUGLAS WADE, recently appointed supervisor of Conservation Information Service, D.N.R.

On Friday May 13 the Wade family journeyed north from North Portal, Saskatchewan, to Regina. They drove through a heavy dust storm the entire distance. They knew that the dust told a story of land abuse in a country of low rainfall and demonstrated the great need for more vigorous and intensive land and water conservation programs.

Doug Wade, the senior member of the family, is now employed by the Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources as supervisor of the Conservation Information Service. Previously he had served as naturalist-in-residence at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, director of the New Jersey State School of Conservation, fur researcher with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, education director for the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, a teacher at the University of Missouri and Clemson College in South Carolina, and most recently, as editor of the **Journal of Soil and Water Conservation** with offices in Des Moines, Iowa.

Both Doug and Dot Wade attended the University of Wisconsin where

Doug received a master's degree in wildlife management under the famed Aldo Leopold. Mrs. Wade majored in landscaping and botany. Doug is originally from Wisconsin, and Dot from New Jersey. The Wades have two children. Lila, a daughter, is married and now residing in New Hampshire. Alan, aged thirteen, is busy becoming acquainted with Saskatchewan's rich natural history and fish life.

Doug served for five years as editor of the New Hampshire **Audubon Society Bulletin** and for five years on the editorial board of the Carolina Bird Club. He has made a film of the "Peregrine Falcon on its Eyrie" (filmed largely in Vermont and New Hampshire), and visited over 180 eyries in eastern North America. He also made a special tape-recording study of the American Woodcock on its peenting grounds.

Dot Wade has published a guide to spring flowers of the Hanover, New Hampshire area and maintains a herbarium of plants collected in many midwestern and northeastern states. Already she has started to collect and list plants of Saskatchewan and finds an entirely new and fascinating array of plants and habitats to explore, list, study and photograph.

Although Alan has not yet pulled in any "record-busting" fishes, he knows that there are many virgin lakes and streams awaiting exploration, especially in the northern half of the province, in spite of mud, dust and bugs.

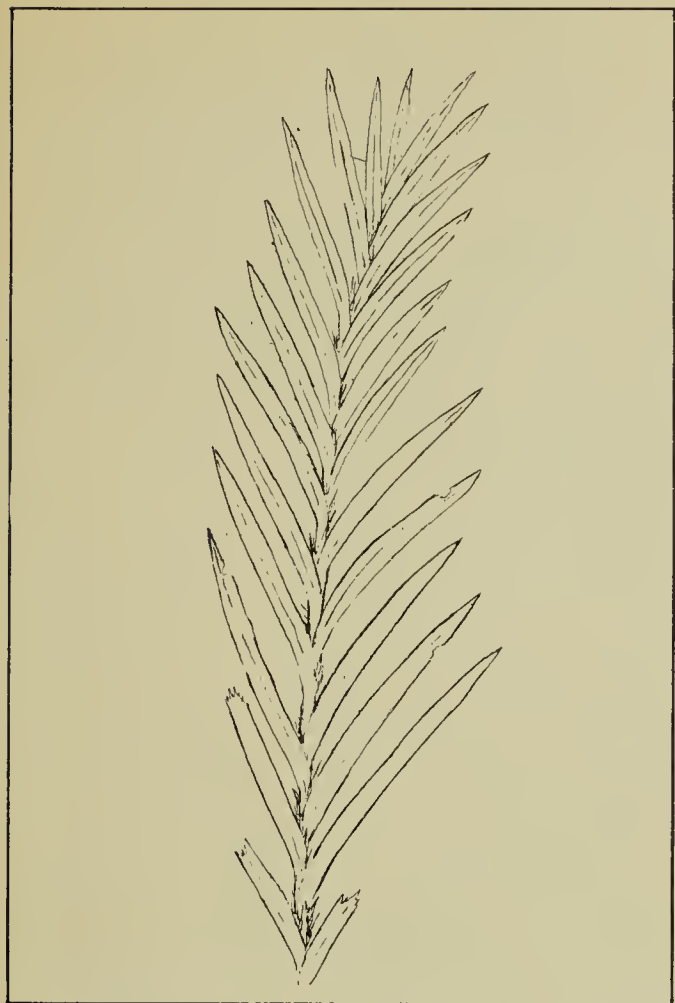
The Wades have joined the Saskatchewan Natural History Society and the Regina Society. Doug, in his work with the Department of Natural Resources, feels that the natural history societies have made many significant contributions to a better understanding of the wild plant and animal resources of the Province. He also feels that there are many more opportunities for natural history groups to make still greater contributions which can be shared by all who reside in the province.

The Saskatchewan Natural History Society welcomes the Wades to the Society.

PLANT NOTES

A NEW PONDWEED FOR SASKATCHEWAN

by Bob Caldwell, Ducks Unlimited, Saskatoon



Robbin's Pondweed (*Potamogeton robbinsii*)

Potamogeton robbinsii

While on a trip to Nemeiben (Sucker) Lake, northwest of Lac la Ronge, in early June, the writer collected a sample of Robbin's Pondweed, *Potamogeton robbinsii* Oakes. Its identification was later verified by Dr. G. F. Ledingham of Regina College.

This pondweed has not previously been reported for Saskatchewan, but has been found in the northeastern states, Great Lakes region and Pacific northwest below our border.

This pondweed is a completely submerged plant. It is best recognized by its stiff, dark green, two-ranked, linear to lanceolate-shaped leaves that flank the stem, becoming crowded toward the end of the branch. These leaves are up to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches long and $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch wide. The edges are finely serrate. Apparently it seldom produces fruit (seeds) and it is therefore of little value to waterfowl. In our northern lakes it might have some value to fish populations.

PROTECT OUR NATIVE FLORA

by C. Stuart Francis, Torch River

The wild "Tiger Lily" (*Lilium philadelphicum* L. var. *andinum* (Nutt.) Ker.) has been very abundant in the Torch River district in 1960. In fact, all our native wild flowers here and elsewhere in the province seem to be having a very prolific season, with the native Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia* L.) being especially abundant with us this year. I would like to request all farm folk not to clear and break up every last few square rods of native sod, for if this trend continues most of our lovely wild flowers will be gone forever. To me, and I am sure to many other nature lovers, too, our wild flowers are just as beautiful as the tame garden varieties, and they can be seen and admired with a lot less hard work and expense. Our wild flowers are usually much more resistant to insects and other pests that attack our garden flowers.



SOME PLANTS OF OUR DUNELANDS

by Keith F. Best and Arch. C. Budd

In the southwest of our province is a large area of sand and sand dunes, the Great Sandhills and their smaller neighbouring dune lands. These have their own peculiar vegetation, and a number of plants are found there that apparently will not thrive except on these sandy soils.

In the June issue, we dealt with four native grasses whose presence indicate sandy soil. Now let's take a look at two legume species that are generally associated with our sand dunes.

One of the first species to commence the re-vegetation of a shifting sand dune is the Lance-leaved Psoralea (*Psoralea lanceolata*). This close relative of the Indian Breadroot is a low growing plant of a yellowish-green colour with yards and yards of tough, cord-like rootstocks, branching in every direction. The finely glandular leaves have three, occasionally five, linear lanceolate leaflets from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. The bluish-white flowers are

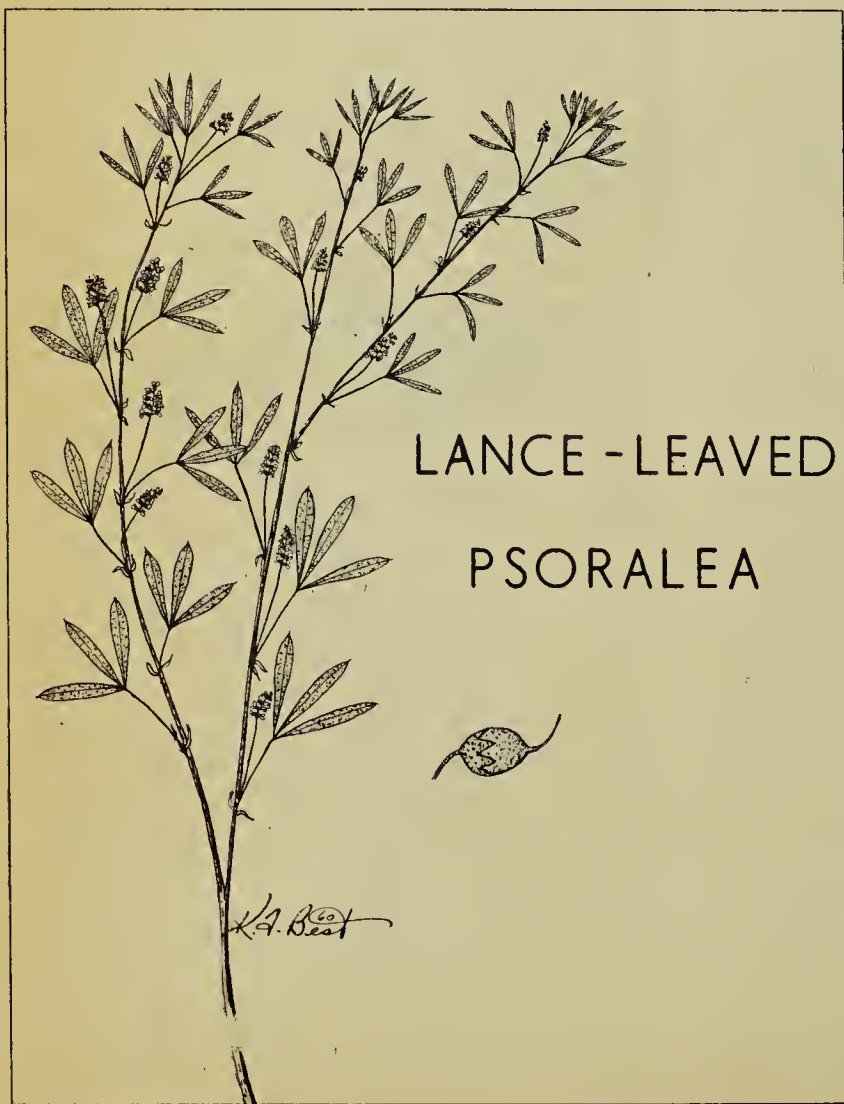
SMALL
LUPINE



about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long and borne in short, very compact spikes and are followed by the fruiting pods. These are about $\frac{3}{16}$ inch in diameter, greenish-yellow in colour and look like very tiny lemons, each containing one seed.

Another legume not plentiful like the preceding species, which is rarely found except in sand dune areas, is the Small or Annual Lupine (*Lupinus pusillus*). This plant grows but a few inches high and bears palmate leaves with five oblong leaflets from 1 to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, quite hairy on the underside. The dense racemes of flowers are borne on short stalks and the flowers are generally pale blue but vary to pinkish and almost white. This plant is very variable in abundance. Some years it is quite plentiful and then hardly any will be found for several seasons.

LANCE-LEAVED
PSORALEA



SYRINGA OR MOCK ORANGE*Philadelphus lewisii* Pursh

Photo by W. C. McCalla

The Syringa or Mock Orange is a shrub four to eight feet high with snowy white, fragrant flowers. It is abundant in B.C. and at Waterton, and has been planted and does well at Calgary and Edmonton. Prairie nurseries warn that it is not dependably hardy throughout the rest of the prairies, and that it sometimes tip kills. However, I have had a beautiful mass of Mock Orange bloom this summer at 2335 Athol St., Regina. If you have a very sheltered location you may like to experiment with Mock Orange.—Ed.

GIANT PUFFBALL

CALVATIA MAXIMA

by George F. Ledingham, Regina

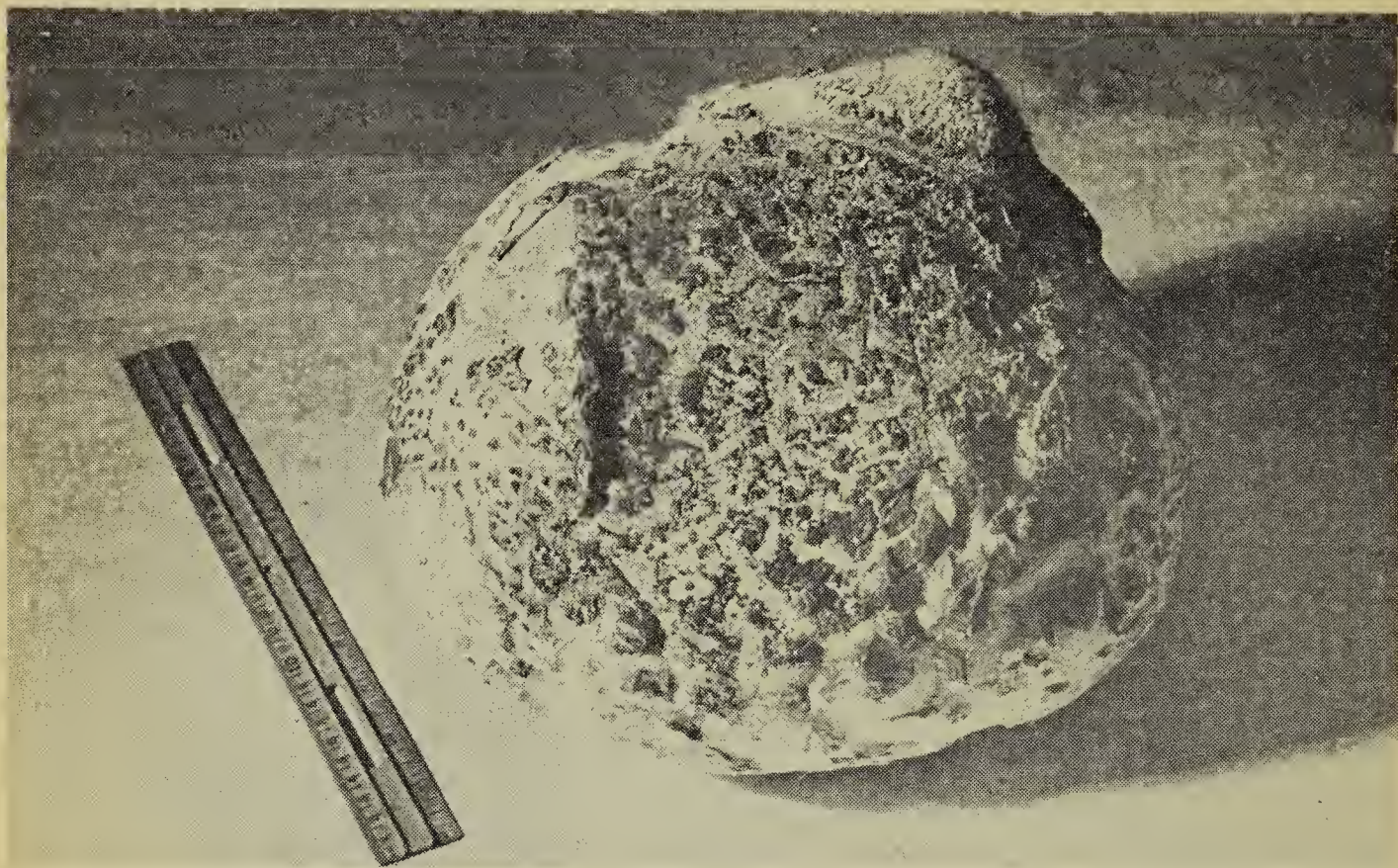


Photo by B. C. Shier

GIANT PUFFBALL

An excellent specimen of the *Calvatia maxima* was sent to the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History for identification on Nov. 2, 1959, by Fred Novak, Regina. Mr. Novak found the puffball in the Qu'Appelle Valley north of Regina near the bottom of the valley on a north-facing slope among trees five to eight feet high.

The puffball was depressed globose in shape, a full 10 inches across and about eight inches high. The surface was rather conspicuously grooved and fissured. The larger

grooves suggested that the surface had split when the puffball was still growing rapidly. The tissue within appeared to have filled the splits and formed a new surface.

Young *Calvati* puffballs are edible and are said to be very good. Puffballs of the genus *Calvatia* differ from the commoner puffballs of the genus *Lycoperdon* by their larger size and by the fact that the peridium opens not by a single central pore but by irregular slits through the surface.

PINK PENSTEMON NITIDUS

by George F. Ledingham, Regina

While collecting at Moose Jaw, June 3, 1960, I noted three plants of the Blue Beard-tongue (*Penstemon nitidus* Dougl.) with pink flowers, growing on a high bank south of Moose Jaw Creek. The pink blossom represented a colour variation which I had not seen before in this species. Blue is the only colour mentioned for *P. nitidus* in most manuals of botany (including Rydberg, 1954, *Flora of Rocky Mountains and adjacent plains*) but A. C. Budd (1957, *Wild*

plants of the Canadian prairies) elaborates this description by saying that great variations of color are found, from purple, through all shades of red and pink to pure white." I have noted plants with blooms that were purplish rather than blue indicating the presence of red pigment, but this is the first truly pink specimen that I have collected. I wonder whether our readers have noticed colour variations in the Blue Beard-tongue.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' SECTION

Edited by **Joyce Dew**, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History



Any young person may submit material for this section of the **Blue Jay**. The entries must be first-hand observations in the form of letters, stories, poems, black - and - white sketches or photographs. Letters should not exceed 500 words. All entries must be accompanied by the name, age, and address of the sender.

Book prizes or magazine subscriptions will be awarded with each issue of the **Blue Jay**. Special prizes will be given from time to time to teachers who encourage their pupils to write or who sponsor nature activities about which the children write.

Send in your nature observations to Boys' and Girls' Section, **Blue Jay**, Miss Joyce Dew, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina. The closing date for the next issue is October 15, 1960.

PRIZE WINNER for this issue is **Margaret Houston**, age 6, who wins the prize for her delightful poems about a Robin. We look forward to hearing more from her.



Cabbage Butterfly by Ralph Underwood

NEWS FROM JUNIOR MEMBERS

Most of the Junior Members appear to be busy observing birds. Peter Tsakires of Regina reports having seen a Canada Goose on Wascana Lake in Regina and was quite thrilled with it. This would be one of the geese from the Regina Waterfowl Park. They spend much of their time in the Waterfowl Park but sometimes delight picnickers on the Legislative Grounds by putting in an appearance in that area.

Lorne Graupe spent some time looking at a water bird and sent us a description as well as a drawing of it. We agree with you Lorne, it certainly sounds as if you saw a Ruddy Duck. Lorne is interested in hawks as well and sent in several drawings of them.

Surprising things sometimes happen when you knock down an old log in the bush, as Duane Hillaby of Codesa, Alberta, discovered. Duane heard a buzzing noise in the log and found four young woodpeckers inside.

Ed Shepherd continues to keep us informed about his bird banding activities and his nest recording. He is fortunate in having someone like Dr. Stuart Houston to give him

assistance and advice about such activities. Now that the Houstons have moved to Saskatoon they will be missed in the Yorkton area.

We have tried to make the "name the bird" contest harder this time, but hope we haven't made it too hard for you. If you want a checklist of the birds of Saskatchewan write to the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina.



Photo by Kay Hodges
A hungry young family

HIKING

by the pupils of Shamrock School

Date: June 7th.

Time: 2.00 to 3.00 o'clock.

Distance: Around the school yard and about one quarter mile down a lane, across a hill, back to the road, and back to the school again. On our hike we saw the following things:

Plants—Wild mint (which we pressed), vetches (two or three kinds), cowslip, blue violets, lily of the valley, meadow rue, star grass, white anemone buds, wild parsnip leaves, white cup shaped flowers, tiny blossoms in the grass with four

petals the size of a pin head, toadstool.

Trees and Shrubs—Aspen, caraganas, poison ivy, pincherry in blossom (the pincherry leaves are finer than chokecherry leaves, lighter green in color, and very finely toothed), saskatoon (leaves rounded, edge roughly toothed, many of the blossoms are gone and the small berries are formed), chokecherries in blossom (leaves are darker and rougher than pincherrys, many blossoms were falling), wild raspberries, wild honeysuckle (bud), willows in bloom, seeds are formed, wild roses in bloom along the roadside.

Mammals—Two brown rabbits in the bluffs beside the schoolyard.

Insects—We found a rotted log and when we turned it over there were large red ants under it. We saw several low worn down ant hills with little black ants. We never saw the eggs, larvae, or pupa in any of the nests. On the way home we found a large insect which was lying flat on the ground in the grass. Teacher thought it was a butterfly. It couldn't fly so we took it back to school and when we observed it more closely it had feathery feelers, a large hairy body and six strong legs. It was a Ceceropia Moth. We are keeping it to start a collection. We also saw Black Beetles, spiders and many webs, blue butterfly, a white butterfly, a black butterfly with white bordered wings probably a Mourning Cloak, a Tiger Swallowtail butterfly (yellow and black).

Birds—There are barn swallows in the school yard. They rest on the power line, and fly in and out of the chimney. In the yard is a Song Sparrow's nest in the grass, with four tiny blue eggs in it. The bird flew out when we were about a yard from it. We saw a female blackbird on a power pole. We heard bird songs but couldn't identify the song, or see the bird.

We hope to go on another longer hike next week and we will find the plants in bud to see what the blossoms are like.

**MEADOWLARK**

by Shiela Carlson, Estevan, Sask.

BIRD BANDING AND NEST OBSERVATIONS

by Ed Shepherd, Invermay, Sask.

On Monday, May 23rd, Victoria Day, I spent the day with Dr. Stuart Houston, banding Great Horned Owls (young ones). Out of eight nests, we banded twenty young ones and are about to band some Long-eared Owls and Marsh Hawks. Myself, I found four Marsh Hawk nests which isn't very many and also four Long-eared Owl's nests. I also found two Mourning Dove's nests and when Dr. Houston sent me the bands to band them they were already gone, but that is just my luck.

There are many Coot nests because I found eight around one little corner of Saline Lake. One nest had twelve eggs in it. Also I found one Pied Billed Grebe's nest and two Eared Grebe's nests. Both Eared Grebes had six eggs and the Pied Billed Grebe only had two.

Note.—Ed also tells us about the contest he has entered finding Owl

nests for Dr Stuart Houston and lists some of the nests he has found. He reports as well that he has seen a Jumping Mouse and that a Whooping Crane was seen going over their school on May 3rd. "It was not too high but was quite large and white. His body was not of a stocky type but slim and it had a long stretched out neck."

TWO UNEXPECTED VISITORS

by Gordon Sawchuk, age 13,
Endeavour, Sask.

Early one morning when I came to school I saw a pair of beautiful Barn Swallows sitting on the map case. I tried to chase them out but did not succeed in doing so. When our teacher, Mr. Hutchinson, arrived at school, he, my friend Jack and I tried to get them to fly out but they were just too smart for us. When the bell rang one girl was scared of those harmless little birds, but somehow we got her convinced that they wouldn't bite or hurt her.

All that morning the Barn Swallows sat on the map at the front of the room, acting just like a pair of keen teachers. After dinner Mr. Hutchinson darkened the room, left the door open and thought that the birds would fly to the light outside but they didn't. At last, at recess we managed to get rid of one but one still remained. My grade had to stay in after school to take a class. All of a sudden from outside we heard a Barn Swallow chirping away and as quick as a wink the Barn Swallow that was inside the school flew out. I guess it was its mate calling it.

THE ROBIN

by Margaret Houston, age 6,
Yorkton, Sask.

The Robin's Nest

I saw a nest up in a tree
That some robins built
Where I could see.

A Robin Sings

I heard a robin in a tree
Sing
A song to me.

OBSERVING OWLS

by **Lorne Graupe**, Hazen, Sask.

It was April 30th I found the nest and on May 1st I decided to climb the tree. As I started to climb the tree the owls flew off hooting loudly. When I was about halfway up the tree, the owls began snapping their beaks very loudly, and sort of meowing like a cat. For two weeks I passed the owl's nest quite frequently. About June 5th the owls were quite big and my friend and I decided to take one home and show Mom and Dad. As we neared the nest at the top of the tree, the owls started the same procedure as before, also making dives at us. We finally got the owl down to the ground and my friend stood over it, looking at it. We knew they were Great Horned Owls and that they were dangerous. As he stood over it, the female owl dived at him. I saw it and yelled at him. He ducked just in time and the owl missed him by about eight inches. We took the owl home and got a picture of it. Then we took it back. I didn't go back until about a week later and then they were gone.

CEDAR WAXWINGS

by **Sally Moss**, age 11, Regina, Sask.

A couple of Sundays ago Dad and I went to Rotary Park in Regina and to a slough we know about five miles outside Regina. When we went to Rotary Park I saw ten Cedar Waxwings, beautifully colored. I have never seen them before so it was a great thrill. Most of the birds seemed to be scared of us, so we didn't see too many birds except at the slough. The chief birds we saw at the slough consisted of grebes, geese and two Avocets.

A JANUARY BUTTERFLY

by **Ralph Underwood**, Age 13,
Strasbourg, Sask.

One January evening my brother found a cabbage butterfly in the house. We caught it and put it in our Christmas tree. The next day we couldn't find it. The next night we found it, almost dead, on the floor. After picking him up we mixed a small amount of sugar with a little water in a teaspoon. We offered it to him. Out shot his tongue and he began sucking the liquid up. When he had had enough he neatly curled

his tongue up and flew off. We fed him for ten days; then he died.

CLUES FOR "NAME THE BIRD" CONTEST

1. The adults of these young are pictured elsewhere in this contest.
2. The name of this owl begins with "S". It is a buffy brown color and has an irregular flopping flight.
3. When adult this duckling will have prominent yellow-colored eyes.
4. This bird frequently "gangs up" with others of its species to attack larger birds such as crows.
5. This bird was featured in the June issue of the Blue Jay.
6. This bird has a chicken-like yellow bill and inhabits marshes.
7. This is one of the three following birds: Sea Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Common Tern.
8. This gull is one of the following: Ring-billed Gull, Sea Gull, California Gull.
9. These birds nest in Saskatchewan.
10. Visitors to the A.O.U. in Regina last summer saw several thousands of these birds.
11. These geese nest north of Saskatchewan.
12. These large white birds migrate through Saskatchewan and nest further north.
13. This fairly large white bird is sometimes mistaken for a Whooping Crane.
14. This bird is one of the following: Bonaparte's Gull, Sea Gull, Common Tern.

RESULTS OF "FACT FINDING" CONTEST

We would like to thank the boys and girls for their enthusiasm and the good response we had to this contest. Question Number 7 was unintentionally confusing so we did not count it in the marking. In some issues of the "Blue Jay" the reproduction of the photograph of the Sage Grouse chicks was so poor that it was impossible to count the number of young. In judging the contest, we looked first for the entries with all answers correct and eliminated those with incorrect answers. Next we looked for completeness of answer

and accuracy of spelling, particularly the correct copying of the names of mammals and birds.

The winners were as follows:

Children 12 and under: Louisa Mountain, age 9, Lloydminster, Sask.

Children 13-16: A tie between Jimmy Lynowski, age 14, Veregin, Sask., and Maxine Wilson, age 16, Broadview, Sask.

Everyone who entered the contest is being sent a Saskatchewan Natural History Society calendar since we still have a few of this year's calendars on hand. We can't promise that we can do this for every contest though.

Keep up the good work, boys and girls, and let's hear from you often.

"NAME THE BIRD" CONTEST

Contest Rules: Any boy or girl, 16 or under, may enter this contest. Write your name, age and address at the top of the page, then number from 1-14. After each number write the name of the bird in the photograph. Clues to this contest are found elsewhere in the Boys' and Girls' Section. The answers to all of the questions are found on the Saskatchewan bird check-list. Closing date for the entries is October 15, 1960.



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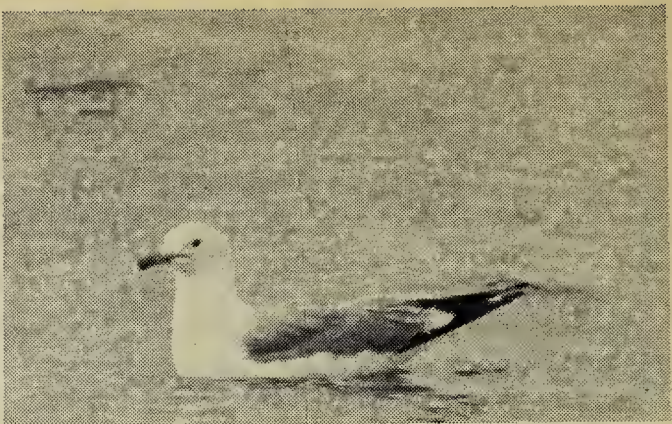
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12



13



14

MAMMAL NOTES

MORE WINTER BAT RECORDS

by **Spencer Sealy**, Battleford

In the June, 1959, issue of the **Blue Jay** there is an article by Dr. R. W. Nero which points out the scarcity of winter records of bats in the province. Recently, I obtained the following records of Big Brown Bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*) in the basement and classrooms of a school-house in Battleford:

November 6, 1959—1 female, alive.

November 16, 1959—2 females, alive.

November 19, 1959—1 male, dead.

January 4, 1960—1 female, dead.

February 18, 1960—1 male, dead.

February 22, 1960—1 female, alive.

March 3, 1960—1 female, alive.

The live bats were awake when found and were kept alive in captivity for three to nine days. Following correspondence with Dr. Nero I went up into the attic of the school on March 12 and found seven live Big Brown Bats which were hibernating, six dead ones and one skeleton. The dead ones were frozen and thus were well preserved. The temperature of the attic was 0° Fahrenheit. I looked carefully for food remains but was unsuccessful; four preserved stomachs taken from live bats and sent to Dr. Nero were found to be empty. There were several piles of droppings in the attic which were from one to six inches deep.

There were still several live bats in the attic when I was last up and from my observations I know that most of them lived right through the winter. I saw one bat flying around the outside of the school at 7:00 p.m. on April 4. The same evening at about 6:30 I observed a bat flying around the bridge over the Battle River about one and one-half miles south of Battleford. It occurred to me that this could be a spring arrival date for this species. I also saw another bat flying around the school on April 11.

ED. NOTE.—Spencer Sealy is one of our younger naturalists who has already contributed a large number of nest records and bird notes. This recent work in mammalogy indicates his interest in another phase of natural history. In addition to the above information Spencer submitted some well-prepared bat skins for the Museum's collections. His data provides positive evidence of indoor hibernation of the Big Brown Bat and

suggests a new line of enquiry for mammalogists. Nursery colonies of bats of this species (as well as the Little Brown Bat *Myotis lucifugus*) are often found in attics in summer. Mating is supposed to take place in the fall, viable sperm being retained within the female over winter and then released to provide fertilization in the spring; hence females are already fertilized upon arrival or upon emergence. Location of a large wintering colony would provide a valuable opportunity to study this physiological aspect and many behavioral problems.—R.W.N.

MOUNTAIN LION AT TORCH RIVER, SASK.

by **C. Stuart Francis**, Torch River

On July 1, 1960, my two sons, Stuart J. Francis and Stanley Francis, my half-brother, Ben Maddaford of Saltcoats and I had the good fortune to observe a good-sized Cougar or Mountain Lion (*Felis concolor*) for about 10 minutes. We saw this animal on NW¼ 7-54-15 W2 in the northwest part of the Torch River district. There have been several reports of Cougars seen in this area for several years, and they have been definitely established as inhabiting the Pasquia Hills area, east of Nipawin. Harvey Beck (1958. *Guide to Saskatchewan Mammals*) refers to the specimen in the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History taken at Connell Creek in the Carrot River district.

WOLVES FEEDING ON WATER BUGS AND MINNOWS

by **C. Stuart Francis**, Torch River

An interesting observation regarding Timber Wolves (*Canis lupus*) was made last winter by a neighbour of mine, Walter Kratz, who traps up in the Narrow Hills about 35 miles northwest of Torch River. Walter Kratz has a cabin on a lake named Otter Lake at the foot of the hills, and one day he noticed six Timber Wolves some distance out on the lake in front of his cabin. The wolves had been there for three days when he decided to go out and find out what was keeping them there. The wolves left at his approach and he found a water hole in the ice where the water was alive with giant bugs and minnows, so numerous they were almost crowding each other out of the water. The wolves had been scooping them out of the water and feeding on them, and the ice around the hole was covered with dead bugs and minnows.



Photo by James G. Beatty

Red Squirrel, May 10, 1960, Gunnar Mines, Uranium City.

Photo by Dr. James Beatty, medical doctor at Uranium City who enjoys photography, likes to paint, and is an avid fisherman. Dr. Beatty practises medicine at Gunnar Mines but flies to Uranium City for three days each week. He is married and has four young children. Their home at Gunnar overlooks St. Mary's Channel on the southernmost tip of the peninsula which extends out from the north shore of Lake Athabasca—a wonderful setting for wildlife studies.

Some Notes on the Butterflies of the Cypress Hills

by **Ronald and Donald Hooper, Somme**

We recently had a very enjoyable holiday trip to the Cypress Hills where we tried to learn more about Saskatchewan butterflies and to add to our own fast-growing butterfly collection.

In two and one-half days we collected 45 species of butterflies in the Cypress Hills, eleven of these being new to our collection. Forty species were collected on Thursday, June 23, which was an unusually ideal day for butterfly collecting for the following reasons:

(1) It was a sunny day following a two-day rain. This is an ideal condition for the hatching of fresh butterflies.

(2) It was warm but not too hot.

(3) The wind was warm and not too strong.

(4) The time was the third week in June which is the height of the butterfly season.

The 11 species new to our collection were as follows:

1. Nevada Fritillary, *Argynnis nevadensis* Edw.—1 specimen—to be expected throughout southern Saskatchewan.

2. Hewitson's Checkerspot, *Euphydryas anicia* Dbldy & Hew—4 specimens—reported also from Alberta's Cypress Hills.

3. Chalcedon Checkerspot, *Euphydryas chalcedona* Dbldy. & Hew—4 specimens—closest reported record from Missoula, Montana.

4. West Coast Lady, *Vanessa carye* Hbn.—1 specimen—closest reported record from the Alberta Rockies.

5. Pembina Blue, *Plebeius icaroides* Bdv.—5 specimens—closest reported record from Big Sandy, Montana, and the Alberta Rockies.

6. Arrow-head Blue, *Phaedrotes piasus* Scud.—2 specimens—closest reported record from the Alberta Foothills.

7. Baird's Swallowtail, *Papilio bairdii* Edw.—1 specimen—to be expected throughout southern Saskatchewan.

8. Creusa Marble, *Euchloë creusa* Dbldy. & Hew—5 specimens—closest reported record from central Alberta.

9. Palaena Sulphur, *Colias palaeno* L.—1 faded specimen—closest re-

ported record from the Alberta Rockies.

10. Nastes Sulphur, *Colias nastes* Bdv.—1 specimen—closest reported record from the Alberta Rockies.

11. Juvenal's Dusky-wing, *Erynnis juvenalis* Fabr.—4 specimens—to be expected throughout southern Saskatchewan.

Other interesting species collected in the Cypress Hills but not new to us were the Freija Fritillary, *Brenthis freija* Thun., a species of northern Saskatchewan; Shasta Blue, *Plebeius shasta* Edw., also taken by us at Eston, Sask.; and Large Marble, *Euchloë ausonides* Bdv., also taken at Eston and in northern Saskatchewan.

On the same trip we also collected nine species of butterflies at Maple Creek, 15 at Swift Current, and six at Chaplin and Secretan. An interesting record at Swift Current was an Acmon Blue, *Plebeius acmon* Westwood, which has also been taken by us at Eston.

We hope to be able to return some day to the Cypress Hills for further collections of Rocky Mountain butterflies on Saskatchewan's highest elevations. Our Saskatchewan collection now contains 101 species. We would think there might be 140-150 species in the province.

It should be kept in mind that the identification of the specimens reported above was made by ourselves with the help of entomological reference books in our library, and is therefore subject to correction by professional entomologists. The scientific names used in this article are taken from the *Check-list of the Lepidoptera of Canada and the United States of America* by J. McDunnough (1938). For common names and descriptions we have used the following references: *The Butterfly Book* (Holland); *A Field Guide to the Butterflies of North America, east of the Great Plains* (Klots); *The Butterflies of Montana* (Elrod); *Check-list of the Pelidoptera of Alberta* (Bowman); *The Diurnal Lepidoptera of the Athabasca and Mackenzie Region, British America* (Cary).

THE *Blue Jay* BOOKSHELF

GUIDE TO SASKATCHEWAN MARSH PLANTS. By J. R. Caldwell. 1960. Published by Ducks Unlimited (Canada), Winnipeg.

This booklet is an aid in identifying some aquatic plants in Saskatchewan and bordering areas.

Some thirty-six common species are shown in full-page sketches. These include arrowheads, water plantain, Arrowgrass, rushes, bulrushes, cattails, grasses, sedges, bur-reeds, smartweeds, maretail, pondweeds, widgeongrass, watermilfoil, coontails, duckweeds, bladderwort, crowfoot and waterweeds. The description of these and related species is given, along with their habitat,

distribution and importance—related mainly to use by waterfowl.

The organization of the plants is in ecological order, passing from wetlands plants to emergent plants and finally to submerged plants.

The approach to the subject discussed in this handy reference book and guide can be easily understood and appreciated since it was designed mainly for the layman. It is scientifically accurate, but not so scientific as to be cumbersome to the person with a limited training in botany.

This booklet can be obtained, free of charge, by writing to: Ducks Unlimited (Canada), Winnipeg, Manitoba.—Janice E. Briggs, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History.



Ralph Stueck showing some of the taxidermy work which he did as a youngster.

A little four-page bulletin on the conservation activities of popular naturalist Ralph Stueck has been published by the Sask. Museum of Natural History and may be obtained from the Museum upon request. "Sleepy Hollow" is the name of the bird sanctuary and museum at Abernethy where Ralph Stueck is always glad to be at home to visitors. However, his activities do not end there—he takes movies of wildlife and travels about lecturing to schools and other groups, and perhaps knows more Saskatchewan people interested in natural history than anyone else in the province.

Christmas Gift Suggestions . . .

A Guide to Saskatchewan Mammals

by
W. H. BECK



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SASKATCHEWAN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
REGINA
1958

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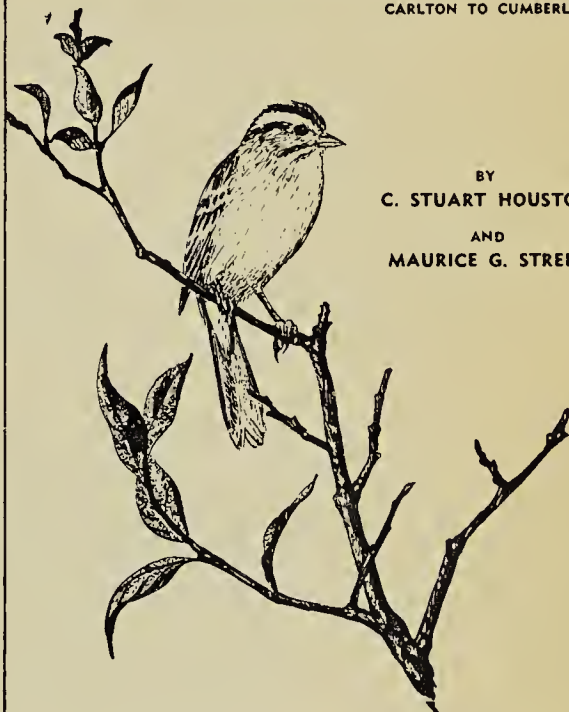
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LETTERS

RE: TURTLE STONES

The description given by A. J. Hruska of Gerald, Sask., of "turtle stones" is very good. His opinion of their origin is very interesting, too. I wonder if he has ever broken any of these stones and found, as I have, the remains of what I believe to be a fish, of course in a fossilized state and as hard as stone. Not all of these stones contain a fish or whatever it is.

The iridescent sheen of the scales of a fish still remains when the stone is broken, suggesting to me that mud must have been the material surrounding it. The cracks in the mud could have been made when water subsided and it became exposed to the air. The cracks were probably later filled in by a very hard crystal-like substance.

These stones can also be found along the hilltop above the Birdtail Creek, and the Wolverine Creek near Marchwell, and some have vertebrae in them, fossilized, of course. A friend of mine was visiting us from his home in Colorado and when we were on a hike and travelling through a gravel bed on a newly-opened road he picked up a piece of ironstone which fell to pieces in his hand, exposing a perfect fossilized black shell of a probably extinct species of shellfish. The cut through the gravel was about nine feet deep.

These fossils help to explain the early history of the Qu'Appelle Valley. I should like to get other people's opinions upon these matters—we know much too little about them.—**Arthur G. Kelly**, Spy Hill.

MIGRANT WATERFOWL

The Kerrobert area in which we live is a favourite feeding area in both spring and fall for numerous ducks and various species of geese. Although many of the shallow sloughs are popular with the transient geese the favoured body of water is Tramping Lake. Tramping Lake, part of the Eagle Creek water system, stretches for perhaps 25 miles

and varies in width from several rods to one-half mile. Each spring and fall the lake is dotted with waterfowl of many species.

On May 1, 1960, a casual drive along part of the shore revealed, in addition to the duck and snipe population, a grand flock of Whistling Swans (we counted 46), approximately 450 Snow Geese resting on the far shore and a smaller flock of Canada and White-fronted Geese swimming farther into the lake.

An interesting fact we have noticed is that while swans rest on the lake on their way north in the spring, they do not stop on the southward journey in the fall. The contrary seems to be true of the Sandhill Cranes—they do not stop on their northward migration, but remain to feed in considerable numbers in the fall.—**Louis Molnar**, Broadacres.

THE BIRDS OF PREY

This summer for the first time I had the experience of finding a Great Horned Owl nesting in an old abandoned barn. There already were young when the nest was found and they seemed to be eating well. The location of the nest seemed unusual to me.—**Victor Schmidt**, Melville.

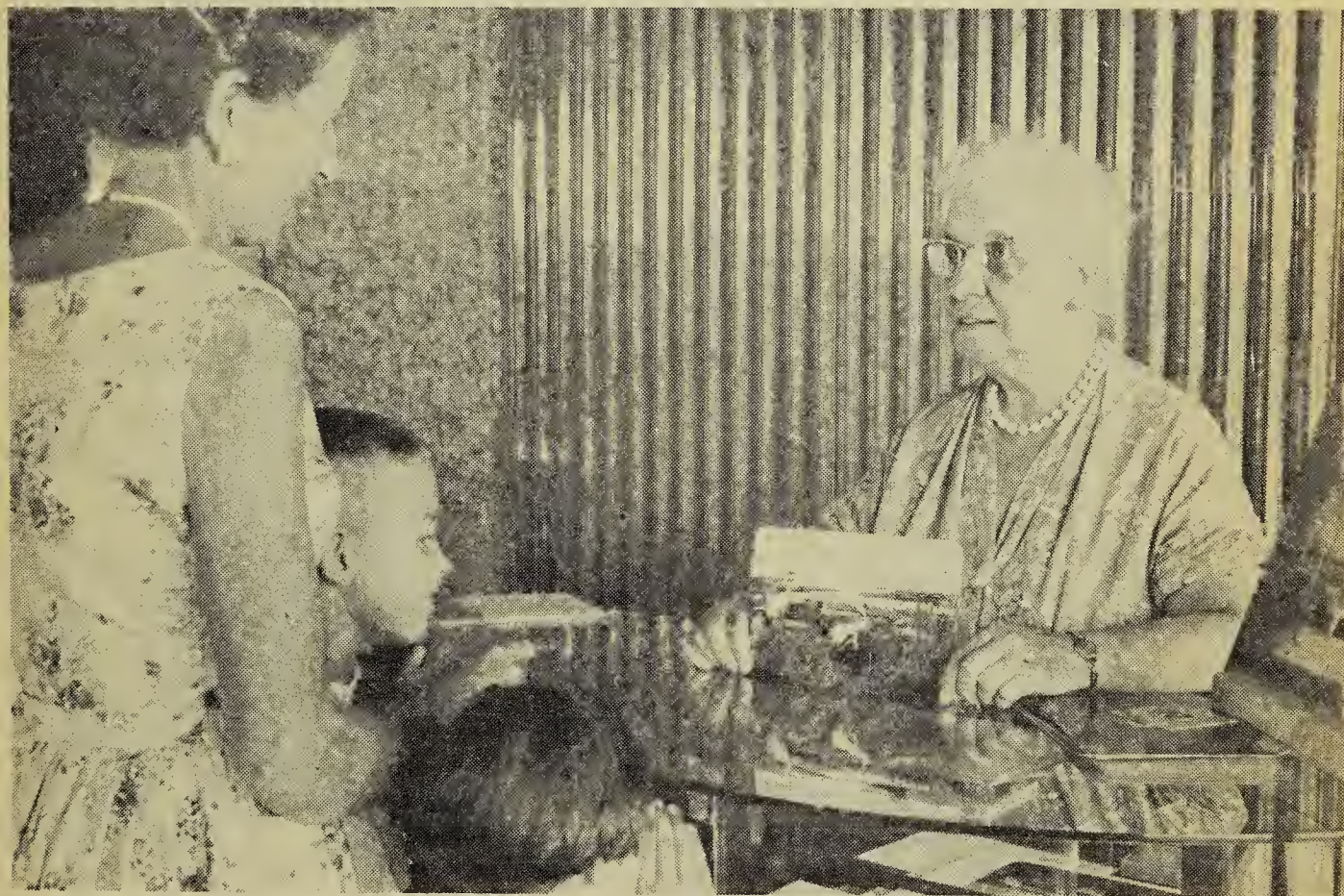
When I am working in the field I always find it interesting to watch the reactions of birds to intruders and enemies. On June 29 this year as I was finishing work for the day, I came near a Horned Lark's home. I say "home" because as I came up the parents flew up from very near the tractor and stood their ground just beyond reach of the cultivator, quite courageously. Since this often happens, I stopped the tractor and looked for the nest, which I found near the tractor wheel with one young almost able to fly and one egg. I lifted the cultivator and passed over it. Just then the parent birds saw a mouse running from under the straw that the implement had disturbed. They took after the mouse and chased it away from the nest, pecking at it for about 10 or 15 feet.

I have always noticed that when we disturb birds in the field they become easier prey for predators. On June 3 when I was summer fallowing I went around a Mallard's nest, but on my second round the female flew up and the crows—ever wary—spotted her. They kept close tab on her until she led them to her nest. On my approach on the next round she flew up once more. The crows got the eggs, and on another round I saw the female wandering around looking for them. This is the general pattern which occurs when I try to save a duck's nest, but on this particular day still another predator en-

tered the scene. On a later round, I noticed a Swainson's Hawk which reared back, apparently holding something under it. When I ran over and frightened it away, it released the female Mallard which it had pinned to the ground.

Speaking of the birds of prey, I should like to mention an unusual record for this area. I have a reliable report of a Turkey Vulture seen on July 2, 1960, about five miles east of here. I have never seen one, but recognized the bird by the description given by the man and his wife who had seen it sitting on a post. — **P. Lawrence Beckie**, Bladworth.

CLUB NOTES



Elizabeth Cruickshank in the Blue Jay Shop at the Museum

REFUGE PROPOSAL SUPPORTED BY AUDUBON SOCIETY OF CANADA

Word comes from John A. Livingston, President of the Audubon Society of Canada, that the Audubon Society has written to the Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources wholeheartedly endorsing the proposal of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society that a wildlife refuge be established at the end of Last Mountain Lake, especially for the protection of Whooping Cranes and Sandhill Cranes. The

Audubon Society further supports the idea of planting special lure crops as part of the structure of such a refuge to remove much of the threat to privately-owned crops, as well as to allow the Sandhill Cranes to rest and feed in safety. Finally, it commends the proposal on the grounds that the elimination of shooting would remove a serious threat to migrating Whooping Cranes.

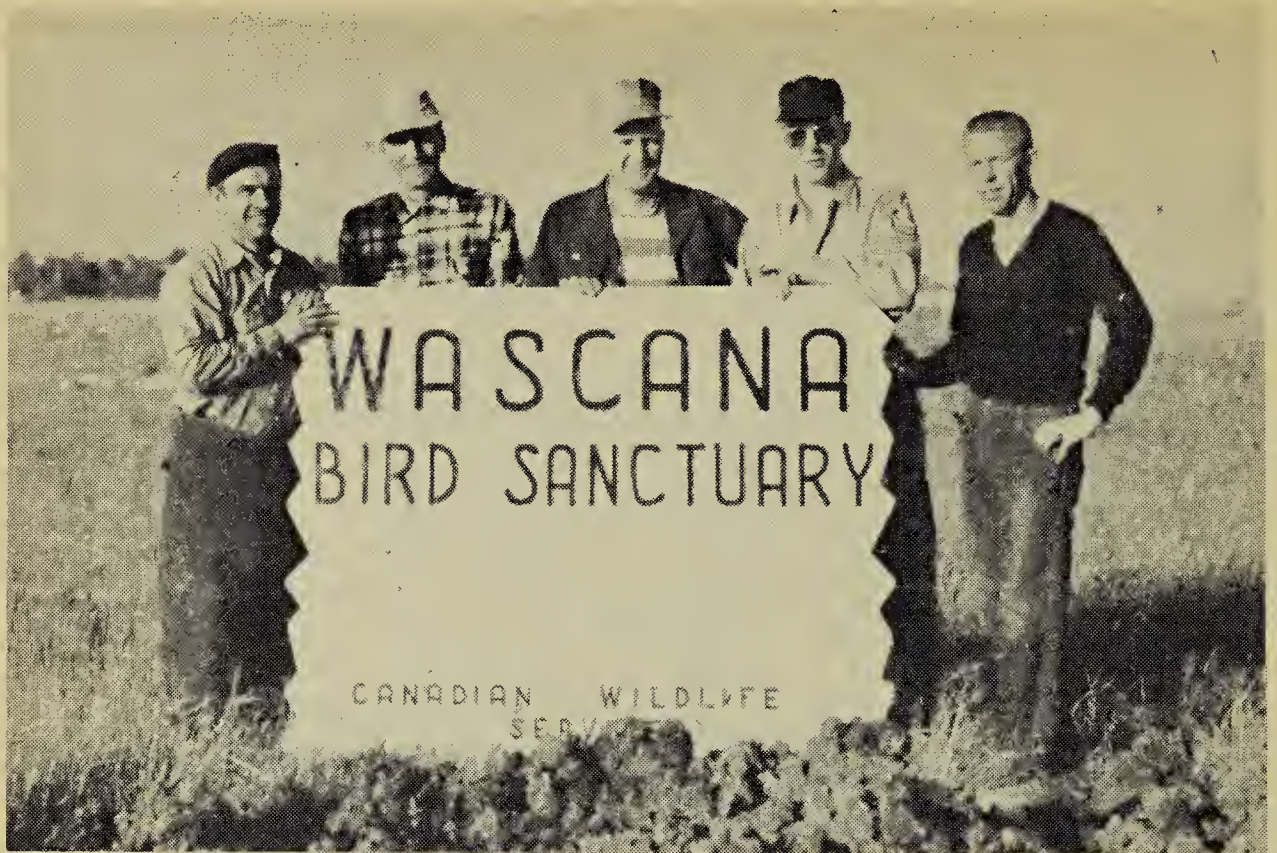


Photo by F. G. Bard

Executive members of the Regina Fish and Game League erecting Canadian Wildlife Service sign at Regina's waterfowl sanctuary, June, 1960.

Twenty-Fourth Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conference Meets in Regina

With wildlife experts from throughout Canada and with a number of top U.S.A. biologists, the twenty-fourth annual Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conference met in Regina June 16 and 17, 1960.

Although primarily concerned with migratory birds (mainly Waterfowl), the conference ranged over a vast sweep of subjects affecting Canada and the United States. Fur, wolf and coyote control, waterfowl damage to agricultural crops, zoning of waters with respect to motor-boat use, regulations affecting many mammals and birds were among the topics aired.

Through the discussions ran an undercurrent of concern about federal-provincial relationships, with provincial leaders reflecting a desire to increase provincial authority over land, water and wildlife affairs. There was general condemnation of federal restraints and inaptitudes, especially in management of interior waterways and boat regulations.

Special sessions were held on Baren Ground Caribou and fur. Throughout these sessions there was the realization of the precarious sit-

uation of the Metis and Indians and their dependence on hunting, trapping and fishing. The vastness of northern Canada and the paucity of trained researchers and administrators was also evidently appreciated.

Members of the Department of Natural Resources—Ernie Paynter, Tom Harper and Bernie Nelson—proved able hosts throughout the conference. The Natural History Societies were represented by Dr. George Ledingham and Elmer Fox.

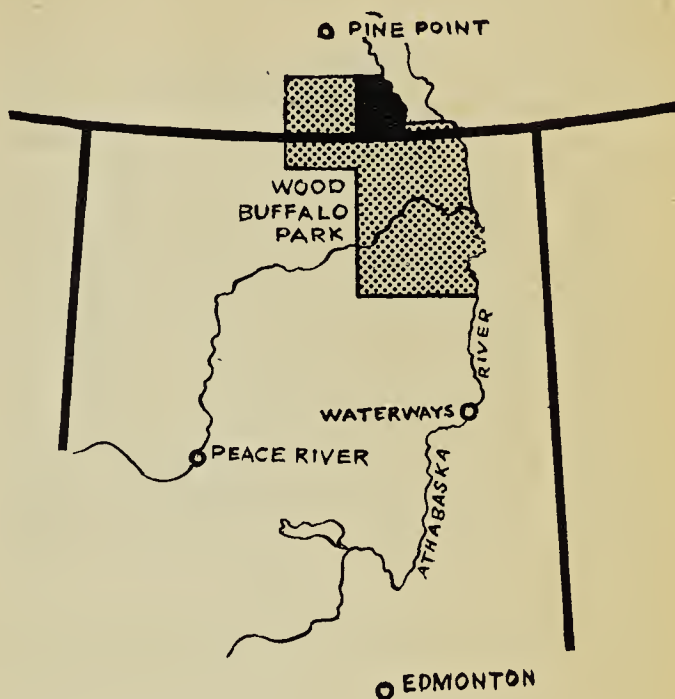
This is the first time this outstanding conference has met in Saskatchewan. Top Canadian wildlife scientists such as Winston Mair, Al Hochbaum, Doug Clark, and Dave Munro had high praise for the natural history efforts in Saskatchewan. In informal sessions with some of these leaders, hopes were expressed that the efforts of the provincial natural history society and the several local societies would continue to prosper and expand. It was pointed out that Saskatchewan can do much through its natural history groups to establish a greater understanding of the great resources of native plant and animal life.—D. Wade, D.N.R.

RESOLUTION RE: WHOOPING CRANE PASSED AT SUMMER MEETING, JUNE, 1960

At a short business session at the summer meeting at Greenwater June 18, 1960, the following resolution was passed:

"Whereas the Wood Buffalo National Park is the only known nesting area of the Whooping Crane, such an area is necessary for the survival of this species and should be made into a bird sanctuary, and all development (railroads, roads, timber cutting, trapping, mining, exploration, etc.), should be prohibited in this area."

In the accompanying map the solid black area represents the portion of Wood Buffalo Park recommended by the Audubon Society of Canada as a permanent Whooping Crane sanctuary.



HOCHBAUM GUEST SPEAKER FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina, October 21-22

H. Albert ("Al") Hochbaum will be the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, addressing an evening session open to the public on Saturday, October 22. Mr. Hochbaum has been director of the Delta Waterfowl Research Station since 1938, and is the author of numerous publications on the habits and management of waterfowl. His best known books are the two prize-winners: the *Canvasback on the Prairie Marsh* which won the Brewster Medal of the A.O.U. and the Literary Award of the Wildlife Society, and *Travels and Traditions of Waterfowl* which also won the Literary Award of the Wildlife Society. At present Mr. Hochbaum is engaged, with the help of a Guggenheim Fellowship, in a study of the economic and material values of prairie marshes and their place in our culture. This study is of special interest at the moment to the Saskatchewan Natural History Society because of its own programme of support for the prairie marshes. So it is with special pleasure that members will look forward to hearing Mr. Hochbaum speak at the annual meeting on "Wetlands and Waterfowl."

PROGRAMME

Friday evening, October 21

7.30 p.m.—Meeting of the Executive and Directors in the Board Room, S.M.N.H.

9.30 p.m.—Coffee Hour. Lounge, S.M.N.H. Social get-together for out-of-town and Regina members.

Saturday, October 22

7.00 a.m.—Bird Hike (weather permitting!) from Regina College.

9.00 a.m.—Registration. S.M.N.H. Adults: \$1.00. Dinner tickets additional.

9.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.—Business and programme sessions, S.M.N.H. Auditorium.

6.15 p.m.—Dinner—place and price to be arranged.

8.00 p.m.—Address by H. A. Hochbaum, Delta Waterfowl Research Station, on "Wetlands and Waterfowl." S.M.N.H. Auditorium. Public welcome.

MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

There will be time during the meeting for the showing of members' slides. Bring along ten of your best for a five-minute contribution to the programme. If you have other items

of interest, please bring them for display during the sessions. Please let the programme chairman, Dr. R. W. Nero, know in advance what your contribution will be.

NOMINATIONS — Please send nominations for officers and directors to the Chairman of the Nominations

Committee, Dr. R. W. Nero, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, by October 15.

RESOLUTIONS—Please send resolutions for presentation at the meeting to the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, K. E. Baines, Tisdale, Sask., by October 15.

REPORTS FROM SUMMER MEETING, JUNE 17 - 19, 1960

LIST OF BIRDS SEEN AT GREENWATER PROVINCIAL PARK, JUNE 17-19, 1960

SPECIES LIST: Within the confines of the park, 77 species were identified as follows: Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe, White Pelican, Great Blue Heron, American Bittern, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Osprey, Sora, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Common Tern, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Common Nighthawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Traill's Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Catbird, Robin, Veery, Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-White Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Yellowthroat, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Yellow-head Blackbird, Redwinged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Slate-colored Junco, Clay-colored Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

BREEDING RECORDS: Nests of the following species were located: Common Loon (2); Red-necked Grebe (3); Black Tern (1); Eastern Phoebe (1); Barn Swallow (1); Red-eyed Vireo (1); American Redstart (1); House Sparrow (1); Redwinged Blackbird (2).

ADDITIONAL SPECIES: The following additional species were observed on short motorcades to areas within 30 miles of the park: Horned Grebe, Pintail, Canvasback, White-winged Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk (?), Swainson's Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Franklin's Gull, Short-eared Owl (nest), Mountain Bluebird, Savannah Sparrow.

The regional total for the three-day weekend stands at 90 species

positively identified. Observations were made by members and friends of the Sask. Natural History Society. Compiler: Frank Roy, Saskatoon.

LIST OF PERSONS REGISTERED

From Saskatchewan: R. Stueck, **Abernethy**; Mrs. M. Robins, **Aylsham**; L. Martinovsky, **Gerald**; S. Waycheshen, A. Waycheshen, H. Corley, **High Hill**; J. Lowndes, C. Irvin, Eva Irving and Brian Irving, A. Bruvoris, **Kelvington**; Rose McLaughlin, Mr. and Mrs. K. Skinner, **Indian Head**; I. Zess, Mauren and Jack Zess, Mrs. F. B. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. C. Ellis, John and Jane Ellis, Mrs. D. Rhodes, Michael Rhodes, Margaret Brown, Mary Guthrie, Rae Husband, Jean MacDonald, Anne Crofford, Nancy Dunn, Minerva Smith, J. Walker **Moose Jaw**; W. Yanchinski, **Naicam**; Sylvia Harrison, Connie Pratt, F. Brazier, Joyce Dew, C. J. Buck, L. Carmichael, Lucy Murray, Elizabeth Cruickshank, D. Wade, Dorothy Wade, Alan Wade, Marjory Harrison, F. Switzer, Marguerite Robertson, Gertrude Murray, Evelyn Switzer, Dr. and Mrs. G. Ledingham, Beattie Ledingham, Ron Austin, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Stevenson, R. C. Mackenzie, Ruth Bennett, Maureen Rever, **Regina**; Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Brownlee, J. A. Brownlee, **Rose Valley**; Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hogg, Janice Briggs, R. Bremner, F. Roy, R. Gerity, Mr. and Mrs. J. Shadick, Sylvia and Stanley Shadick, W. Richards, Florence Richards, Elizabeth Campbell, **Saskatoon**; K. Schwartz, **Stornoway**; E. Baines, D. W. Pegg, **Tisdale**; J. Turnquist, Lillie Turnquist, R. Turnquist, **Wallwort**; Mr. and Mrs. D. Hayward and Joan, **Wolseley**; Ruth Shaw, Doug and Karen Shaw, Dr. and Mrs. S. Houston, **Yorkton**.

From Manitoba: Mr. and Mrs. J. Lane, **Brandon**.

From the U.S.A.: A. T. Shadick, Dorothy Shadick, **Conn**.

THE SASKATCHEWAN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Birds of Prey: R. Bremner; Calendar: E. Fox; Conservation: F. G. Bard; Constitution: F. Brazier; Membership: Sylvia Harrison; Publications: C. S. Houston; Publicity: D. Gilroy.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Members are reminded that subscriptions to the **Blue Jay** are based on the calendar year. However, a special Christmas offer is being made to new members. Anyone receiving the **Blue Jay** for the first time as a Christmas gift will receive the December, 1960 issue as well as all four issues for 1961. Remember your friends with the **Blue Jay** at Christmas.

MEMBERSHIPS

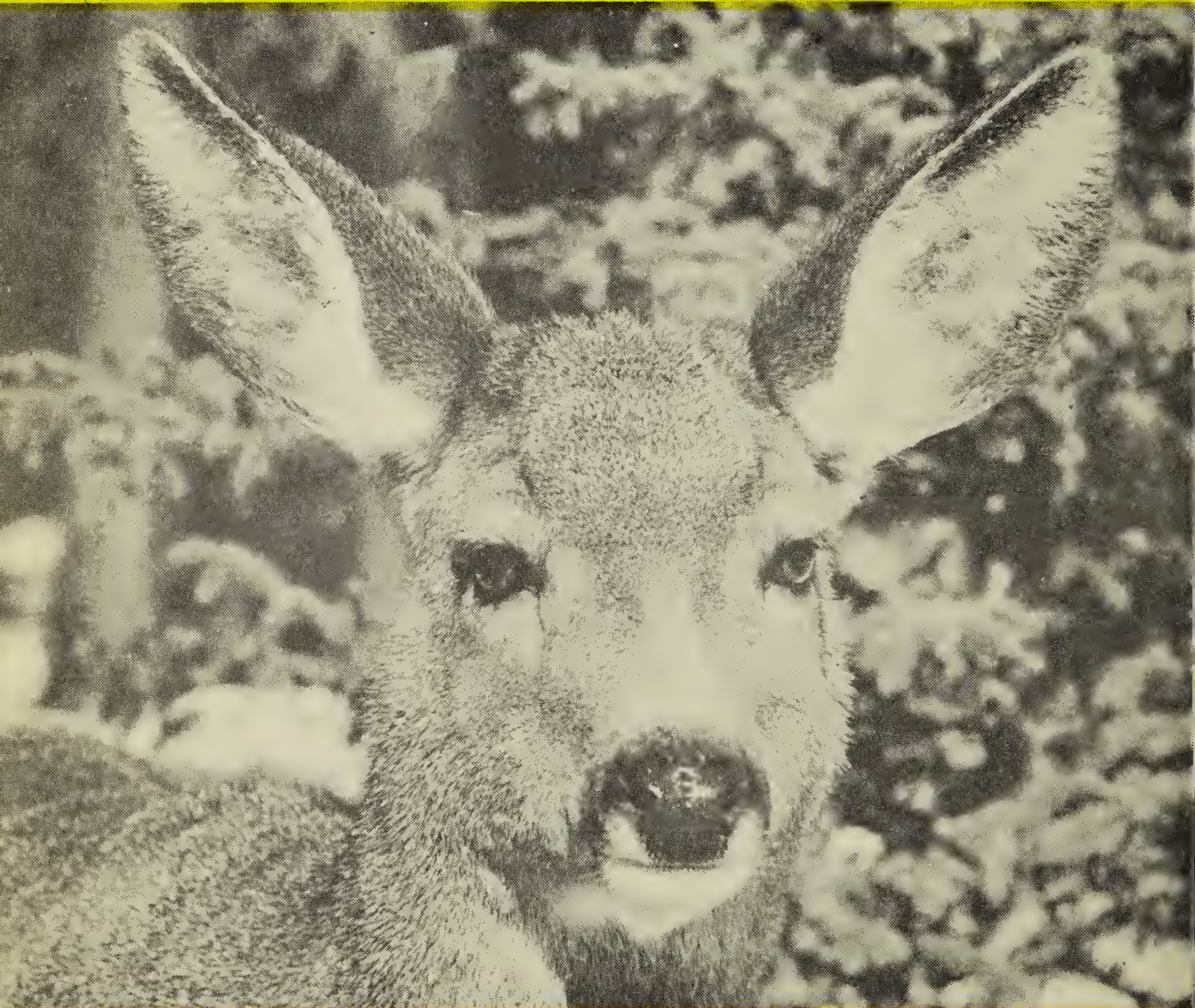
All persons interested in any aspect of nature are invited to join the Saskatchewan Natural History Society. Membership dues per calendar year are: Regular, \$2.00; Junior (including schools), \$1.00. The **Blue Jay** is sent without charge to all members not in arrears for dues. Send your membership to the treasurer, Constance Pratt, 3136 Rae Street, Regina, Sask.

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Mule Deer. Banff, March, 1959

Photo by Kay Hodges

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